

Syria and UAE plan peace mission

DAMASCUS (R) — The presidents of Syria and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will send envoys to Tehran in a new effort to end the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war, sources close to a UAE delegation said Wednesday. UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad ended four days of talks here which also sought ways to reconcile political differences between Syria and Iraq. Mr. Assad and Sheikh Zayed's envoys would try to persuade Iran to accept a U.N. Security Council resolution which last month ordered a ceasefire in the war, the sources said. Sheikh Zayed, who later flew to West Germany on a private visit, appeared "more optimistic" after receiving views from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, diplomatic sources said. Sheikh Zayed had extended his stay in Damascus for an extra day to wait for a response to a message he sent to President Hussein. Iraq said it would accept the U.N. ceasefire call if Iran complied, but Iran has neither accepted nor formally rejected the U.N. move.

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Holiday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries, government departments and public institutions will have a holiday on Tuesday, Aug. 25, in observance of the new Hijri (Islamic) year 1408, according to an official communiqué issued by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. Religious ceremonies will be held in mosques to mark the occasion.

Klibi visits Libya

TUNIS (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi left for Libya on Wednesday to confer with Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, league sources said. The sources gave no indication of the purpose of Mr. Klibi's visit to Tripoli, which they said was in response to an invitation from Col. Qaddafi.

Iraqi pipeline opened

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal inaugurated the second Iraq-Turkey oil pipeline on Wednesday, saying it was one of the most important projects of his four years in power. The semi-official Anatolian agency said Mr. Ozal was speaking at a ceremony at Yumurtalik, the Mediterranean terminal where the 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) pipeline terminates. Gulf oil sources say the boost in Baghdad's export capacity makes it potentially the second largest producer in OPEC to Saudi Arabia.

Police clear Kach

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police cleared militant Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach party on Wednesday of accusations that it illegally trained teenagers in the use of arms at a summer camp set up to promote its anti-Arab views, police sources said. Police last week began investigating the summer camp after a photograph in the newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth purported to show a youngster in a Kach T-shirt training with an Uzi submachine-gun.

23 hurt in grenade attack on birthday party

BEIRUT (AP) — An unidentified assailant tossed a hand grenade at a house in a southern village where a group of youth were celebrating a birthday party, and police said Wednesday 23 people were injured. The short police statement said the attack in the village of Kfar Rouman was carried out late Tuesday. The victims were admitted to hospitals in the nearby market town of Nabatieh. Extremists have banned birthday and wedding parties in the predominantly Shiite sector of South Lebanon, claiming that they reflect the western way of life which contradicts their beliefs.

2 more of septuplets die

LIVERPOOL (AP) — The fifth and smallest of septuplets, a baby girl named Erin, died Wednesday, the Mersey regional health authority said. Erin weighed only 425 grammes when the septuplets were born 15 weeks prematurely on Saturday. They were the first septuplets born in Britain. Earlier Wednesday, her sister, Christy, who weighed 481 grammes also died at Liverpool maternity hospital where the surviving babies have been on respirators in the neonatal intensive care unit.

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Administrative reform panel endorses proposal to set up two new ministries

RCAR recommends merger of departments to avoid duplicate work
Working paper introduces suggestions for comprehensive reform

By Elia Nasrallah and Rama Sabbagh

AMMAN — The Royal Commission for Administrative Reform (RCAR) has endorsed the proposed creation of two new ministries, and the merger of a number of other government departments to give more attention to specific public service issues and to avoid duplication of work, it was announced on Wednesday.

If endorsed by the Cabinet and a Royal Decree, the two proposed portfolios would be the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, according to the announcement made by Ibrahim Izzeddine, president of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

The two ministries would raise the number of Cabinet portfolios to 24.

At present, water and irrigation in Jordan falls within the duties of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), while the Ministry of Information, Culture,

Tourism and Antiquities and the Ministry of Youth are responsible for cultural, artistic and heritage movements and policies in the Kingdom.

Introducing the RCAR's decision on the final day of a four-day conference on the role of top-level management in administrative reforms in Jordan, Mr. Izzeddine said the commission was giving the issues of water and irrigation, and culture and national heritage "more attention."

In order to avoid duplication of work among government departments and to increase efficiency, the RCAR also recommended the merger of some departments and the cancellation of others. Mr. Izzeddine did not name the departments involved.

The RCAR, which was set up in 1984 to study the pros and cons of civil service regulations, legisla-

tion and financial administration in a bid to introduce administrative reform in Jordan, has submitted its recommendations to the Prime Ministry.

Other RCAR-endorsed suggestions call for reducing the burden on the prime minister's office by removing a number of departments from its jurisdiction and affiliating them to other ministries.

Only the following offices will be directly connected to the prime minister: the office of the Islamic chief justice, the General Audit Bureau, the CSC, the Central Bank of Jordan and the General Intelligence Department.

The conference, which was attended by ministry under-secretaries and heads of departments, was opened on Sunday by Prime

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U.S. task force sneaks in 3 reflagged tankers to Gulf

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The third U.S.-escorted convoy of Kuwaiti tankers sailed up the Gulf behind a screen of mine-seeking helicopters Wednesday, following a pre-departure departure designed to catch Iranian naval forces off guard.

"They have really fooled us all," said a Gulf-based shipping expert upon learning that the three tankers and three warships, with a fourth tanker tagging along, had passed through the dangerous Strait of Hormuz.

Off Dubai, some 80 kilometres farther on, the convoy met up with the assault carrier Guadalcanal, which apparently was to lead it the rest of the way to Kuwait. Its eight RH-53D Sea

Stallion helicopters were scouting the waters ahead for floating explosives.

By nightfall the hitchhiking ship, which has not identified, had veered off and the group was reported cruising in mid-Gulf, expected to reach Kuwait sometime Thursday. Another three-tanker convoy has been waiting there to make the southbound trip.

The ships in the northbound convoy are the 294,739-tonne super-tanker Townsend and Twin liquefied gas carriers, the 46,723-tonne Gas Queen and Gas Princess. The escorts included the missile destroyer Kidd and the missile frigate Crommelin and Klakring.

It was not known whether the convoy would anchor overnight, as the last convoy had done, to avoid nighttime travel through waters possibly infested with mines.

The tankers sailed less than a day after a Norwegian-operated tanker, the 20,578-tonne Osco Sierra, was hit by at least one rocket grenade fired by Iranian commandos in a speedboat at the outer entrance to the Hormuz.

Iran blamed others for an attack on the Liberian-registered chemical tanker, saying it was "carried out by those who intended to escalate tension in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea (Gulf of Oman)."

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Solarz and Iraqi leaders hold talks on Gulf developments and ceasefire call

NICOSIA (Agencies) — U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz was received by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad on Wednesday after he discussed with the foreign minister Gulf developments in the light of U.N. ceasefire call which Iran did not endorse.

Mr. Solarz arrived in Baghdad Tuesday night. He met Wednesday with Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

INA said Mr. Solarz was later received by President Hussein in the presence of U.S. Ambassador David Newton. It gave no details of their talks.

The United States and Iraq have recently enjoyed good ties despite the May 17 Iraqi missile

attack on the American frigate Stark in the Gulf that killed 37 crewmen.

Iraq has apologised for the attack. Baghdad said its warplanes mistook the frigate for an Iranian warship. Washington accepted Iraq's explanation.

The New York Democrat, a prominent supporter of the Israeli lobby in the U.S. House of Representatives, arrived Sunday in Saudi Arabia on a fact-finding mission about the increasing tension in the Gulf as a result of the Iran-Iraq war and its effect on the oil-rich region.

INA said Mr. Aziz and Mr. Solarz reviewed Gulf developments in the light of the July 20 U.N. Security Council resolution and "measures required for its

implementation."

Mr. Aziz on Tuesday sent a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, urging the United Nations to enforce the ceasefire resolution or move to a second resolution that would impose sanctions on the party that reject it.

Iraq has accepted the U.S.-backed resolution, which calls for a ceasefire in the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war, withdrawal of troops to the international border, an exchange of prisoners of war and the setting up of a commission to decide who started the conflict.

Iran neither accepted nor rejected the resolution.

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Gunman kills himself after slaughtering 9

HUNGERFORD, England (R) — A gunman killed at least nine people and wounded 16 in a rampage through this small market town in southern England on Wednesday and then shot himself dead, police said.

They said that more than six hours after the carnage began the gunman, trapped alone in a school, had committed suicide.

The massacre carried out by the killer with an automatic rifle was unprecedented in Britain.

The gunman, dressed in combat fatigues and firing from both hands with an automatic assault rifle and a pistol, sprayed bullets into lunchtime crowds as he strolled along the main shopping street in Hungerford.

"He was blasting away at anything that moved," said Jim Hardy, who witnessed the bloodbath. The blond and bearded gunman, apparently in his 30s, shot dead his mother in her Hungerford home and burned down the house before rampaging through the town.

He was trapped by police, alone in a local school.

Hess said to have left note; family doubts suicide theory

WEST BERLIN (Agencies) — The Western allies confirmed on Wednesday that Hitler's former deputy Rudolf Hess was choked to death in Berlin's Spandau Prison by a length of electrical cord and said a note he had left clearly implied suicide.

In a statement, the allies cited an autopsy carried out on Wednesday in the presence of officials of the Soviet, U.S., British and French authorities responsible for guarding Hess during his 40-year imprisonment for war crimes.

"The note which was found on the body — clearly implies that Hess planned to take his own life. Investigations are continuing into the precise circumstances surrounding the death," the statement said.

But Wolf-Ruediger Hess, son of the dead Nazi leader, apparently disputed the official version in an exclusive interview with the mass-circulation Bild newspaper of Hamburg.

"I just can't imagine that," Hess said in the interview, when asked about the statement that his father had wrapped the cord around his neck. "Dad held up so

long, and now this." He added in the report in Wednesday's editions: "I want to know what really happened with my father. They should put their cards on the table."

The younger Hess had told reporters Tuesday he was selling exclusive rights to his story to the Springer Verlag, which publishes Bild.

Family lawyer Alfred Seidl, in an interview with AP on Wednesday, also cast doubts on the official version that said Hess wrapped the cord around his neck.

British spokesman Purdon was asked whether the note was a "suicide note." He responded by saying that any such information would have to come from the Hess family.

"It's up to the family to decide whether the contents of the note can be given to the press or not," Purdon said.

The allied military authorities would not say when Hess' body would be released to his relatives in West Germany for burial at a family grave in Wunsiedel, Bavaria.

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U.N. peace mission to Gulf is on hold

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is in no hurry to make a peace mission to Iran and Iraq and wants first to be certain what the Iraqis will discuss, U.N. aides said Wednesday.

They sought to discourage speculation that the mission might take place within a few weeks, before the General Assembly begins on Sept. 15.

Iran's U.N. delegate Said Rajaei Khorassani told Mr. Perez de Cuellar last Friday that he was welcome to visit Tehran, but U.N. officials said a written confirmation and further details of the invitation requested by the secretary general had not yet been delivered.

One aide said this was not surprising. He surmised that the Iranian authorities were considering terms for the proposed talks with Mr. Perez de Cuellar, whose 1985 peace plan they have described as a practical solution to the Gulf conflict.

Like the Security Council resolution adopted on July 20, this called for a ceasefire and withdrawal of forces on both sides to international boundaries. Other elements included a proposed inquiry into the origins of the war, which Iran claims was started by Iraq in September 1980.

A U.N. official said Wednesday that the secretary general was becoming more demanding about conditions for his meeting in Tehran. "We want action and if that takes time we will wait," the official said. "We don't want to discuss 1984, 1985 and 1986, but the present and the future."

Both U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain had urged Mr. Perez de Cuellar to undertake a Gulf mission.

Shamir to present 'new' Mideast proposal to Ceausescu

Israeli premier exhorts Romanian Jews to emigrate to Jewish state

SINAI, Romania (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, maintaining his opposition to an international conference on the Middle East, will present Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu on Thursday with new proposals for regional peace, a senior Israeli source said Wednesday.

"Shamir wants to go (to Mr. Ceausescu) with new ideas to break the impasse," the source, who asked not to be named, told Reuters. "We are interested in coming out here with some kind of formula that would enable things to go forward."

The source refused to specify Mr. Shamir's new proposal, saying that would jeopardise the leaders' final meeting. "A breakthrough is possible if Ceausescu is prepared to act as a go-between us and Arab leaders," he said.

Mr. Shamir, asked if he had



KING MEETS BRITISH AIR CHIEF: His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, receives on Wednesday British Royal Force Chief of Staff General Sir David Craig, who arrived here on Monday. The audience was attended by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb, Royal

Jordanian Air Force Commander Lieutenant-General Ihsan Shurdom and British Ambassador to Jordan Arthur John Coles. Field Marshal Sharif Zaid earlier held talks with Sir David. Sir David and a delegation accompanying him visited front-line positions of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division on Wednesday.

WAJ chief visits Khirbet Al Samra, promises to solve area's problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — The acting president of the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), Mu'tazz Al Bilbeisi, inspected Khirbet Al Samra waste-water treatment plant on Wednesday in the course of an inspection tour of water projects and facilities in the Zarqa area.

The Khirbet Al Samra plant, which is situated east of Al Hashemieh — nearly eight kilometres east of Zarqa — is surrounded by residential areas. Residents there have been complaining about bad smell coming from the plant as well as the Zarqa River which carries most of the waste water and other waste dumped into it by the factories alongside the river.

Later, Mr. Bilbeisi inspected

A WAJ official said bad smell was reaching the residential quarters of Al Hashemieh town at varying times of the day since waste water was being treated at a series of uncovered stabilisation ponds.

According to a correspondent of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, who accompanied Mr. Bilbeisi on Wednesday's tour, the plant has a total of 32 open ponds and which altogether have an overall capacity of 18,400 cubic metres.

A Petra report said Mr. Bilbeisi discussed with the local inhabitants their needs of potable water and promised to take proper measures to deal with the bad smell problem.

Later, Mr. Bilbeisi inspected

an agricultural area adjoining the waste-water treatment plant. The area is planted with two million forest and fruit trees irrigated with treated waste water.

The Khirbet Al Samra plant, set-up on a 7,000-dunum area, treats waste water from the Zarqa River and sewerage networks in Amman and Zarqa.

Mr. Bilbeisi also called at the Zarqa Water Department and was briefed by WAJ Director Kamal Zou'bi on services offered to the public by the department.

Mr. Bilbeisi was accompanied on the tour by Acting Governor of Zarqa Khaled Bawaliz and directors of various government departments in the region.

Glass expects better U.S.-Syrian relations to help other hostages

LONDON (Agencies) — Improved relations between the United States and Syria should give encouragement to foreign captives in Lebanon and their relatives, American journalist Charles Glass said Wednesday.

Mr. Glass, who says he eluded his captors in Beirut early Tuesday, said he felt deeply for other captives and their relatives.

He especially mentioned Terry Anderson, the chief Middle East correspondent of AP, who has been held 2½ years, longer than any foreign captive, and Mr. Anderson's sister, Peggy Say, who has waged an enduring campaign to keep the hostages issue alive in the United States.

Asked what he would say to the captives' relatives, Mr. Glass told a news conference he would rather say something for the relatives:

"I would like to ask that the U.S. and Syria, and the other countries which are involved, redouble their efforts to free their relatives. I can imagine how many of them feel, seeing me out and not their own," he said.

"I think particularly of Peggy Say and seeing me released after two months when her brother Terry Anderson has been held 2½ years. It must be too much for

her to see yet another one come out, and Terry is still held. Believe me, I feel for Terry and Peggy so much that I can hardly speak."

Looking pale after being held 62 days, blindfolded and manacled most of the time, Mr. Glass said he was in good health, though he was tired from going two nights without sleep before he arrived in London to be reunited with his wife and five children.

He said he had managed to escape while his guards slept, but he had been told by Syrian officials and American diplomats after he was taken from Beirut to Damascus that there had been progress towards gaining his freedom.

That, he said, was encouraging for the foreigners still held in Lebanon.

"I think the only encouragement you could give them (the captives) now is that for a number of reasons Syria seems much more determined to obtain the release of hostages in Lebanon," Mr. Glass said.

"I'm told by Syrians and American diplomats in Damascus that the political environment between the United States and Syria is improving and Syria is much more active on the ground in



Charles Glass Beirut in trying to obtain the release of hostages, and so in a sense that is encouraging."

Syrian troops have searched for captives in areas of Beirut they control, and Damascus is thought to have tried to exert pressure through Iran on groups holding foreign captives.

After Mr. Glass' escape, 24 foreigners are missing and believed held captive, plus Terry Waite, the Anglican church envoy who disappeared in Beirut

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Shamir to present 'new' Mideast proposal to Ceausescu

in exploring new ideas," he said. "Ceausescu convinced him there are changes in the Arab World. This is a great thing, because until now Shamir was doubtful of any changes," he said.

Another Israeli source said Mr. Ceausescu proposed to Mr. Shamir on Tuesday that he accept a conference that would include the United States and the Soviet Union but exclude U.N. participation. But Mr. Shamir was unlikely to accept any conference with Soviet participation, the source said.

Mr. Ceausescu met last week with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat and Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij.

Mr. Shamir on Wednesday told about 1,000 Romanian Jews of his desire to see them "next year in Jerusalem."

Speaking in Yiddish and then in French, Mr. Shamir told the Jews of his meetings Tuesday with President Ceausescu, saying

the two had "very friendly talks." On the issue of emigration, which currently runs at about 1,000 Jews a year, Mr. Shamir said Mr. Ceausescu "understands this wish to go from Romania to Israel."

About 400,000 Jews have left Romania for Israel since the end of World War II.

"We want more Jews from the whole world. They should come and work with us together for the future of the Jewish people in their own state," Mr. Shamir said.

4 SLA men hurt

TEL AVIV (R) — Four members of the Israeli-backed South Lebanese Army (SLA) militia were injured Wednesday when their armoured personnel carrier ran over a mine near the southern Lebanon town of Marjayoun, security sources said. The injured men were taken to the Israeli-run hospital in the town. There was no immediate report on their condition.

52 congressmen urge U.S. support for Iranian rebels

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group of 52 members of Congress, in a letter released Tuesday, urged Secretary of State George Shultz to support groups fighting to overthrow the government of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The letter asked President Ronald Reagan's administration to adopt a policy that would recognize "the Iranians who have not surrendered to the ruling dictatorship, who resist at the risk of their lives."

In particular, the group of Republicans and opposition Democrats asked Mr. Shultz to closely examine the People's Mujahadeen of Iran, considered the largest and best-organized of the anti-Khomeini groups.

Democratic Congressman Mervyn M. Dymally, who initiated the letter, said he welcomed indications that the State Department was revising its view of the Mujahadeen, a group once labeled as terrorists. Mr. Dymally has consistently lobbied for administration recognition of the Mujahadeen.

"We are pleased to learn ... that an understanding of the role of resistance, namely by the anti-Khomeini People's Mujahadeen

responsible for killing several Americans in Iran in the 1970s.

In recent months the Mujahadeen has stepped up its military offensive against Khomeini's forces, launching cross-border attacks from bases in Iraq.

The letter said that a shift in the emphasis of U.S. policy toward Iran would "enhance U.S. credibility in the region," which was damaged by revelations that the administration sold weapons to Khomeini's government.

"We have an opportunity now to put forth a policy that will place us on the side of the people when the change in Iranian leadership comes," according to the letter.

The signatories said they hoped "the effects of our past policy might offer a useful lesson for future relations with Iran."

Mr. Reagan has said that the U.S. arms sales to Iran began as an initiative to boost moderate forces within the Khomeini government and establish contacts with elements who might replace the current rulers.

The letter noted that future U.S. policy "should not ally us with rulers who use terror and the prolonging of war as instruments of control."

Iranians 'warn off' U.S., French aircraft

LONDON (R) — Iran said Wednesday its warships warned off two French-made jets and U.S. military aircraft which tried to observe their minesweeping operations in the Gulf of Oman.

The Iranian National News Agency (IRNA) said several U.S. and French warships had been monitoring the minesweeping work off the United Arab Emirates (UAE) port of Fujairah from a distance.

Two French-made Super-Etendard strike fighters, a U.S. fighter and a U.S. reconnaissance plane flew high over the Iranian minesweepers, it said, "but were forced to leave the area when faced with warnings from Iranian warships."

The agency, received in London, spoke of an "extensive presence of foreign fleets and aircraft" in the area where a mine holed the U.S.-owned tanker Texaco Caribbean last week and another sank a small supply boat on Saturday.

Iran says the United States or its allies were responsible for mining the area but Washington charges the mines were laid by Tehran.

U.S. warships are in the area to protect Kuwaiti tankers flying the Stars and Stripes and a French force led by the aircraft carrier Clemenceau, with super-Etendards on board, is also believed to be in the area.

Iran blamed others Wednesday for an attack on a Libyian-registered chemical tanker in the Gulf of Oman and stated that it would leave Gulf shipping if Iraq refrained from disrupting Iranian oil exports.

IRNA quoted an official spokesman as saying the attack on the Osco Sierra about 45 miles off the United Arab Emirates Tuesday was "a suspicious movement aimed at creating tensions in regional waters."

Shipping sources had said an Iranian patrol boat fired on the tanker by IRNA, received in London, said the attack "was carried out by those who intended to escalate tensions in the Gulf and the Oman Sea (Gulf of Oman)."

IRNA did not say who was responsible, but Iran has repeatedly accused the United States of seeking to increase tensions in the Gulf.

Eitan challenges Knesset findings on Pollard case

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli spy master who headed the espionage operation that bought U.S. secrets from Jonathan Jay Pollard on Wednesday challenged parliamentary findings and said he acted with approval from his superiors.

Rafi Eitan, formerly head of the secret Defence Ministry unit that supervised Pollard's spy activities, broke a public silence over the affair by saying he felt "responsible for my activities, but not guilty."

Israeli leaders contended the spying was a "rogue operation" conducted without the knowledge or approval of senior government figures.

"In all my activities I did not act without approval," Eitan said in an interview on Israel Radio. He refused to elaborate on who had granted him approval.

Pollard, an American Jew and former U.S. Navy civilian intelligence analyst, was sentenced to life in prison in March for selling U.S. military secrets to Israel.

His wife, Anne Henderson-Pollard, received a five-year term for helping Pollard.

Eitan's remarks provoked anger among legislators who investigated the Pollard case and concluded in May that Israel's political echelon did not know about the bungled spy operation.

"We determined unanimously that Rafi Eitan carried full and direct responsibility for the decision to recruit Pollard," said Simcha Dinizit, a member of parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that conducted the probe.

"He did not report to his superiors or receive any approval," Dinizit told Israel Radio.

Leftist legislator Ran Cohen, also a member of the parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, said he would demand clarifications from Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin over who approved Eitan's actions.

"Eitan clearly says he acted with approval and permission in all aspects of this affair which caused so much damage to Israel," Cohen said. "The Israeli public ... must know who is truly responsible for spoiling relations with the United States."

The Pollard case badly strained U.S.-Israeli relations and prompted expressions of concern from U.S. Jewish groups.

Officials in Washington were particularly angered by what were seen as rewards for Eitan and Aviem Sella, the air force officer who was indicted by a U.S. court for recruiting Pollard and subsequently promoted by Israel to head a prestigious air base.

Sella resigned the post after the U.S. government banned officials from visiting the base or meeting its commander.

Officials were also angered by the naming of Eitan to Israel Chemicals Co., the largest state-owned company.

Eitan said Wednesday he regretted the damage to U.S.-Israeli ties caused by the spy case. "I was sorry then, and I am sorry now," Eitan said. "The United States is my friendliest ally, and we must expend every effort to repair our relations."

Eitan said he also regretted the fate of the Pollard couple, both serving their terms in U.S. federal prisons.

"I will do whatever I can through legitimate means in helping the Israeli government ... in order to see the Pollards free, and if possible in Israel," he said. He refused to say whether the government was working on the couple's behalf.

There was no Soviet confirmation of the Israeli announcement, and Soviet officials on Tuesday did not refer to Novick's statement at their regular briefing for foreign reporters.

Novick said in an Israeli Radio interview the Soviets "told us they plan to open a direct channel of communication between our two countries."

"This is the application of an intention they have expressed previously to open a political dialogue with us," he said.

Novick told Israeli television the Soviets agreed to "having other meetings and a much more regular approach to these meetings, with the aim to turn this into a routine."

"The Soviets are much more interested to understand why we are opposed to some of their positions and why we insist on some of ours. Maybe the essential thing is to clarify to each other the possible limits," Novick added.

The Soviet Union broke diplomatic ties with Israel after the 1967 Middle East war.

Asked whether the Soviet initiative indicated a willingness to renew ties, an Israeli Foreign Ministry official said: "We do not know, but we are looking at the situation with guarded optimism."

Israeli hopes were reinforced last month by the arrival of a Soviet consular delegation, the first official Soviet group to visit the Jewish state in 20 years.

Amnesty International, the human-rights organisation, issued an urgent appeal on Gaba's behalf on July 31, asking the Chadian authorities to preserve his safety.

As of Tuesday, the Chadians had not replied to the appeal, Amnesty International said.

In a separate development Chad said Tuesday it had shot down a Libyan MiG fighter and a helicopter over the northern town of Aouzou Monday.

The aircraft were brought down by anti-aircraft fire, the military communiqué, broadcast on N'Djamena Radio, said. It gave no further details.

The Swedish-born Mrs. Pritchard said Monday she had studied a photocopy of Altmann's montages and concluded he used lighting and shading techniques to make the SS picture look like later untested photos of Demjanjuk.

Demjanjuk, 67, is charged with being "Ivan the Terrible," a brutal guard who tortured inmates and operated gas chambers at the Treblinka camp in Nazi-held Poland, where some 850,000 people died in 1942 and 1943.

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Demjanjuk defence witness retracts testimony

TEL AVIV (AP) — A defence witness testifying in John Demjanjuk's trial admitted Wednesday she had been wrong when she discredited a key piece of prosecution evidence and apologised to the court for her error.

Under intense cross-examination, Anita Pritchard, 40, a doctoral student in psychology at the University of Pacific in Stockton, California, acknowledged she had wrongly accused a prosecution expert of manipulating a photograph on an SS identity card to make it portray the defendant.

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Kurdish rebels kill 25 Turkish villagers

ANKARA (R) — Separatist Kurdish rebels armed with automatic weapons, bazookas and grenades killed at least 25 civilians at a village in south-east Turkey Tuesday night, the semi-official Anatolian Agency said Wednesday.

Officials blamed the raid, at Kilickaya village near Erzurum town in Siirt province, on insurgents of the illegal Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK).

The agency said guerrillas approached a part of the village shortly before midnight and talked to two armed village guards before shooting them dead.

At the same time, another group attacked the village from a different direction, killing at least 23 people including the district headman and wounding more than 30.

The agency said top military and civilian officials, including Interior Minister Yildirim Akbulut and regional Governor Hayri

Kozakcioglu, had gone to the village.

Mr. Kozakcioglu was appointed last month to coordinate security after a series of massacres by the rebels, who are fighting for autonomy for Turkey's estimated eight million Kurds.

Since the beginning of the year, the PKK has concentrated its attacks on civilians, especially village guards, headmen and their families.

Officials say the aim is to break links between what the rebels call Kurdistan and the central government in Ankara and to destabilise the area and frighten villagers into joining the rebel cause.

The guerrilla offensive was launched in August 1984 with coordinated raids on Erzurum and Samsat in Hakkari province.

The highest toll in a single attack came when 30 villagers were killed at Pinarcik village in Mardin province in June. Official reports say the rebels responsible

for this and other killings have been caught or killed.

In a separate development nearly 200 inmates of a jail in south-east Turkey went on hunger strike for better conditions, the Anatolian Agency said Tuesday.

It reported the protest by 176 detainees at Gaziantep Prison after a visit there by journalists. The Justice Ministry organised the trip but barred representatives of foreign news organisations.

Journalists, accompanied by ministry officials, heard a string of complaints about conditions in the jail and its strict regime but the report made no reference to allegations of torture which have been common in the past.

Repeated charges of torture in prisons and police stations by human rights campaigners in Turkey and abroad have been rejected by the government, which says cases are isolated and all are prosecuted.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme Review
16:00 Children's programmes
16:30 Children's Scientific Programme
17:15 Butterfly Island
17:45 English series
18:15 Arabic series
19:10 Health and Life (Arabic)
19:40 Local News Reports
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:40 Arabic series
21:30 Local contests programme
22:30 Arabic film
23:10 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Arabic film contd.

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Rue Carnot
18:30 Les Tambours de Burundi
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 My Husband and I (Comedy)
21:00 Master Work
21:10 Rags to Riches
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film "Tribute" - Jack Lemmon, Lee Remick, Robby Benson

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.0 KHz SW
Tel: 774111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show Contd.<

National data system to be established

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has taken preliminary steps towards setting up the Kingdom's first-ever data information system, which, when completed, will be vital for decision-makers in the public and private sectors.

The system will gather, integrate and process data received from various ministries, government departments and private sector organisations. Then, the information will be analysed and disseminated to the country's officials and leaders.

The system's establishment was called for in Jordan's five year development plan and is part of the current effort to reform administration.

Two information centres, which have already been set up, will feed the system with all processed data on national socio-economic, technical and scientific issues.

The first centre, at the Planning Ministry, will gather and analyse all information on socio-economic issues.

The second centre, situated at the Royal Scientific Society, will assimilate and process data related to the country's technical and scientific trends and issues.

In order to coordinate information among the two centres, a seven-member committee, chaired by Planning Minister Taher Kanaan, was set up.

The committee, according to Dr. Kanaan, will be responsible for taking all decisions and actions needed to the system's operations.

The committee's formation followed a decision by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai last March in which he endorsed the formation of the national data information system.

The seven-member body has already endorsed a detailed working plan for phase one of the system's establishment, including the assessment of the available finances and manpower, setting standards for all data systems, and creating computer programmes to be used by ministries, government departments and private agencies.

He said that the committee has approved phase-one of the system which involves programming the internal activities of the Prime Ministry, as well as activities related to Jordan's foreign trade, price indexes, financial and monetary policies, debt servicing and systems, labour force, and establishing links with international data banks, and the setting up of national accounts. Marwan Muasher, Director of the Information Centre on National Socio-Economic Data at the Ministry of Planning, said that the programming of the internal activities of the Prime Ministry were begun last month.

Dr. Kanaan's explanation of the activities of the national data information system was the first public disclosure of the scheme by the government. He made the announcement Tuesday, during the third day of a specialised conference on the role of top level management in administrative reform in Jordan. The minister's statement followed a working paper submitted to the conference by Dr. Muasher on the need for a national information system.

A number of senior officials, including under secretaries of the various ministries and heads of government departments, questioned both speakers on whether the operations of the data information system would duplicate tasks performed by those departments which already have information centres.

Both speakers confirmed that the national centre will collect and analyse the data which it receives from these various information departments in order to provide regular information required by decision-makers.

"They (government officials) will be getting information on specific national issues on a timely and updated basis," said Dr. Muasher. He referred to the scheme as a "support system for decisions taken by the leaders."

The total cost of the scheme's operation was not revealed by Dr. Kanaan. However, Dr. Muasher said that the capital expenditures on the system will "not be very high. They will be gradual."

Beneficiaries of the national data information centre will be the Royal Court, the Prime Ministry, all ministries and government departments, the three Jordanian universities, all research institutions, and the private sector.

Dr. Kanaan could not say when he expected the whole system to be completed. "Data collection and processing is an ongoing process, and therefore, no time limits can be set to say when the total scheme will be completed."

Yet, he indicated that the priorities will be given to develop all "data sources and centres at the various departments and agencies," after which, work will start on developing systems and programmes that are not available.

Asked by one of the participants whether the committee in charge of the system will be issuing monthly releases informing the public on the scheme's operation, Dr. Kanaan replied negatively.

"Continuous briefings over what has been achieved is not favoured at these preliminary stages in order not to put the seven-member committee under pressures" from all the parties concerned in the scheme.



OMANI ENVOY LEAVES: Mr. Said Ibn Hamad Ibn Saoud, Chief of the Royal Court in Oman left Amman Wednesday after a brief visit. He conveyed a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said of Oman dealing with Jordanian-Omani relations, and discussed with the King developments in the Gulf war and means for ending the seven-year-old conflict. The Omani envoy was seen off by the chief of royal protocol, Fawwaz Abu Tayeh, and Oman's ambassador to Jordan, Khamis Ibn Hamad Ibn Saif (Petra photo).

W. Germany to extend \$39m in soft loans

AMMAN (R) — West Germany has pledged to extend 70 million marks (\$39 million) in soft loans to Jordan for the next two years, a German diplomat said Wednesday.

Charge d'Affaires Hans Schiff said the loans, at 4.5 per cent interest, would have a 20-year maturity with a five-year grace period under an agreement signed in June.

He said \$19 million would go to a sewage project in north Jordan,

\$4.4 million to the Agricultural Credit Corporation and \$5.5 million to the Cities and Villages Development Bank.

The Industrial Development Bank would receive \$5.5 million while phase three of a feasibility study on oil shale production in Lajoun, southern Jordan, would get four million.

West German Economic Cooperation Minister Hans Klein is due to start a five-day visit to Jordan August 30.

Voter card regulations revised

AMMAN (J.T.) — Applications for obtaining voter cards can be made by an individual outside the applicant's family, provided he or she produces documents of identification and two photographs, according to a circular issued by the Minister Interior Rajai Dajani.

The new arrangement reverses earlier instructions for the governors that only the voter or a member of his family is allowed to fill out the form and apply for the voter card which is required for parliamentary elections.

In the circular, the minister said that the new measures were to be taken to facilitate the process for voters.

The Ministry of Interior announced earlier this month that October 31 will be the deadline for submitting applications for the voter cards.

The three month application process started on Aug. 1 and is being carried out at civil registration departments.

Ministry of Interior Under Secretary Ahmad Aqileh said Monday that the names of people eligible to vote will be displayed until Aug. 22.

He said that complaints about names on the lists or grievances can be made to a special committee charged with revising the voter lists. This can be done until Sept. 1.

Pilgrims received all services despite Mecca riots -- Khayyat

Minister blames Iranians for causing panic

AMMAN (J.T.) — Despite the bloody riotings in Mecca and the other difficulties in transport and lodging for Muslim pilgrims the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has been able to provide the best possible service to Jordanians performing this year's pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat said Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference in his office, the minister said that the Iranian agitators had caused panic among the pilgrims, adversely affecting services offered them by different pilgrimage missions.

One of the pilgrims in the Jordanian mission died as a result of the wounds inflicted during the bloody rioting. Eight other pilgrims died either of natural causes or road accidents, the minister pointed out.

Earlier, it was reported that many Jordanian pilgrims to Mecca, expecting trouble from Iranian agitators, stayed indoors. They were urged to do so by Dr. Khayyat, according to Jordanian pilgrims who returned home earlier this month. One of the pilgrims, Mohammad Abdul Kader, said that the Iranians provoked the clashes which led to the death

of more than 400 people.

Altogether, 19,664 pilgrims from the East and West Banks of Jordan, from the Gaza Strip and Palestinian land occupied by Israel since 1948, performed this year's pilgrimage to Mecca, and were offered help from a mission appointed by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, the minister pointed out.

Sheikh Khayyat commended the Saudi Arabian authorities for the facilities provided to the pilgrims in general and assistance offered to Jordanian pilgrims in particular.

He said that Jordanian pilgrims were offered good services at Mecca, Arafat and Mina for very reasonable prices. Transport facilities were guaranteed through transport companies contracted by the ministry in advance.

The minister, however, criti-

cised some of the transport companies for violating the agreements. These companies, he said, were ordered to provide transport facilities from inside Saudi Arabia, but failed to offer Jordanian means of transport. Altogether, 286 air-conditioned buses were commissioned for transporting the pilgrims to and from the holy places in Saudi Arabia. These transported nearly 15,000 pilgrims who travelled by land, the minister noted.

Some confusion happened when Muslims from the occupied territories were found to have registered for performing pilgrimage through services not affiliated with Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs departments found in the occupied land and also due to delays for pilgrims trying to obtain a visa to Saudi Arabia, the minister noted.

The pilgrims began returning to Jordan and to their homes in the occupied territories on August 9 after the rites at Mecca and Medina, preceding Eid Al Adha (Feast of Sacrifice).

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs put up pilgrims on their way to Mecca and back from the occupied territories at a special pilgrims city in the Jordan Valley.

Centre works for nonviolent solutions to conflicts

By Nermeen Murad Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of American peace activists from the U.S.-based Resource Centre for Nonviolence wound up a three-day visit to Jordan Wednesday by calling for a "two-state solution" in the Israel-Palestine conflict as the best way to bring about a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

"We believe such a solution would be a workable compromise, meeting at least minimal demands by Israelis and Palestinians alike," said Mr. R. Scott Kennedy, leader of the nine-member delegation which left for the West Bank on the second leg of its regional tour. The group is the fifth one from the centre to tour the Middle East since 1981.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Kennedy conceded that a "two-state settlement" which would allow for national states for both Palestinians and Israelis, would fall short of either sides' "maximalist hopes."

According to Mr. Kennedy, the centre created the tour for people who do not simply want to "reinforce partisanship for one side or the other," but who are prepared to see the Israelis, Palestinians and other Arab peoples face-to-face rather than as "depersonalised abstractions."

The group attempts to understand the conflict and its roots and examine peace prospects which are often neglected or obscured by the mainstream media in the United States.

"We are still in what we call the pre-movement phase," Mr. Kennedy said. "Direct impact will not happen until there is a public outcry such as the one that stopped the U.S. from intervening in Vietnam, and we are still far short from having that kind of impact."

Rev. Jim Lewis, a 52-year-old Episcopal priest from North



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan meets with the delegation from the U.S.-based Resource Centre for Nonviolence at the Royal Court (Petra photo).

Carolina, said he believes his former ignorance of the Middle East situation was "indicative of a lot of people that we are trying to reach." Furthermore, he added, the majority of Americans living in the United States "will not come home to this issue until the issue comes home to them."

"When the situation necessitates sending their people to war, only then, they will start trying to understand," he said.

Mr. Kennedy, on the other hand, explained that the continued escalation of the Middle East conflict poses a "two dimensional fear."

The fear stems from the existing nuclear capacities in Israel and the potential for the conflict to expand and include the two superpowers. This theory, supported by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, predicts that a nuclear conflict between the superpowers could develop from a Middle East conflict, Mr. Kennedy said.

But Mr. Kennedy pointed out that if he were a citizen of southern Lebanon, he would not be "overly concerned about nuclear

war since conventional war is bad enough."

Discussing the United States' role in the Middle East, the group criticised its intervention in Third World affairs, Mr. Kennedy said. "I am for nuclear disarmament and the idea of nonintervention. The United States is going around intervening all over the world," he said.

Mr. Kennedy added that "there is a collaboration between the U.S. government and the press to keep people ignorant."

Ms. Corinne Whitlatch, a consultant for Churches for Middle East Peace, and a member of the group, said that in the Iran-Iraq war, "Iran is the strategic prize. There lies the market, and if we, the U.S. government, can't have that prize now, we should stop the U.S.S.R. from doing that and that is why we provide Iran with arms, so that if they lose the war they would not be left too battered," she said.

According to team member Paul Allen, "We are noticing a positive steady change in the American public's awareness, more so than at any other time."

Americans, he said, are at least aware of "justice and responsibility." If Americans were asked now whether they thought both Israelis and Palestinians should have separate homelands, the majority would answer favourably, he said. But if the people were asked about a homeland for the people of the P.L.O., there would be "microscopic support," he said.

Mr. Allen, a founding member

of the Boston chapter of TecNica, an organisation aimed at extending technical assistance to Nicaragua, stressed that "our main objective is to get through to the peace movement in the U.S. and urge them to include the Middle East problem on the agenda."

Ms. Deena Hurwitz, the other leader of the tour maintains that "this is a two-step process at least. Our desire is to get people on the left to deal with the people on the right. To convince them to share ideas and reach a balanced approach. We organised for Rami Khouri to visit the United States in order to talk to people from all walks of life. We want to bring that voice to the people in the United States," she said.

"Mr. Khouri is a prominent Jordanian writer, publisher and expert on the Middle East affair. Choosing the word 'nonviolence' as the name for the organisation, the resource centre, follows the 'traditions of people like Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Dorothy Day,' Ms. Hurwitz said.

Mr. Kennedy added that "choosing a term like 'passive resistance' would imply that we are passive. Rather, we are constructive and active but we are harmless. We are 'truth grasping' through a method that both Gandhi and Martin Luther King described as 'soul force'."

"Passivism is a personal abhorrence of violence," he said. "We go beyond this conception because we are committed to social change. We have to overcome the systems of violence and overcome injustice."

The group, who met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh during their visit to Jordan, expressed their pleasure and honour at being extended such valuable time. "We felt that both men were very generous," he said.

During their stay in Amman, the group had talks with the Crown Prince on issues of common interest including non-proliferation of nuclear arsenals, non-violence resistance, the need for international solutions to Third World problems and the negative effect of military spending on the development of countries.

The group was also briefed by Prince Hassan on Jordan's stand toward the Middle East conflict and its perspective on the U.S. policy in the region.

New deputy to be sworn in at House session

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament will hold a session today under the chairmanship of its speaker, Akef Al Fayez, to discuss a number of subjects on the agenda.

Newly elected Parliament member Nawaf Saoud Al Qadi is expected to be sworn in at the session which will be attended by members of the Cabinet. Mr. Qadi won a by-election in the northern Badia region held last Sunday to fill a seat in the Lower House made vacant by the death of his father, Sheikh Saoud Al Qadi, earlier this year.

An announcement Wednesday said that the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) will also hold a session today under the chairmanship of its speaker, Ahmad Al Lawzi.

The Senate is expected to discuss reports submitted by the Legal and Financial committees about an amendment to the Audit Bureau Law and the projected medical treatment institutions as well as a law on the Higher Council on Science and Technology.

During the meeting Mr. Nimr and the ambassador discussed questions of common concern to Jordan and Brazil.

In addition, the ambassador briefed Mr. Nimr on his country's stand regarding an agreement to end the conflict in Nicaragua which was signed in Guatemala City by Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Union to pay 50% of tuition for eligible college students

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has agreed, in cooperation with a number of community colleges, to pay for half the tuition of at least 250 needy students for the coming academic year, according to Mr. Ali Abul Shawab, director of GUVS's social cooperation campaign.

Community colleges normally charge students JD 150 annually and GUVS will pay half of the tuition fees for at least 250 students entering the community colleges in the 1987-1988 academic year, Mr. Abul Shawab said.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Masri honours Omani ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Masri hosted a lunch banquet Wednesday in honour of Omani Ambassador in Amman Khamis Ibn Hamad Ibn Saif Al Betashi on the occasion of the end of his term in Jordan. Mr. Masri, in a farewell speech, praised the brotherly relations between Jordan and Oman. He also presented a commemorative gift to the Omani ambassador. The banquet was attended by a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Jordan to join in anti-narcotics meeting

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan along with 15 Arab countries will take part in a meeting for directors of anti-narcotics departments in the Arab World which will be held in the Tunisian capital Friday. This session is a follow up to the implementation of the Arab anti-narcotic strategy approved by the Council of Arab Interior Ministers during their 1986 meeting. During the three-day conference, participants will discuss the latest developments in the international narcotics situation, the phenomenon of drug addiction in the region, and the measures necessary to combat these problems.

Reform and rehab centre opened in Mafraq

MAFRAQ (J.T.) — A new reformatory and rehabilitation centre was opened Wednesday by the Public Security Department (PSD) at Qafqafa in Mafraq governorate. PSD Director General Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali attended the inauguration ceremony and made a speech in which he described the different facilities and equipment installed in the new centre. Later Lt.-Gen. Majali opened the new premises of the Mafraq Police Department and heard a speech by the director of the department about the new facilities and modern equipment installed. The Mafraq governor and mayor were among the guests invited to the two ceremonies.

University head meets U.S. Islamic group

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan Acting President Marwan Kamal received Wednesday a delegation representing Islamic societies in the U.S. Dr. Kamal briefed the delegation on the development and achievements of the university in various fields. The two sides also discussed establishing greater cooperation between the university and the union in the cultural fields, as well as exchanging publications and bulletins.

WMO to visit Jordan in October

AMMAN (Petra) — World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Secretary General Dr. G. Obasi is due here October 14 on an official visit to Jordan. During the visit Dr. Obasi will hold talks with the Department of Meteorology Director General Dr. Ali Abanda on boosting the scope of cooperation between Jordan and the Geneva-based WMO.

JD 250,000 tourist plan to benefit low income groups

AMMAN (Petra) — The Tourist Investment Department (TID) is currently involved in implementing a tourist pilot project in the port city of Aqaba at the cost of JD 250,000, according to TID Director General Zubair Ajlouni.

The project will benefit youth groups and people with low incomes who visit Aqaba, as they will be allowed to stay in chalets and tents for nominal charge, Mr. Ajlouni said.

In an exclusive interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Ajlouni explained that the project entails setting up 25 chalets and 200 permanent tents of various sizes to be let to visitors, as well as providing facilities for water sports and other holiday activities.

The project is being set up on a 350-dunum piece of land along the southern coast of the port city in cooperation with the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA), which has contributed the infrastructure.

The TID, which was established in 1985 to replace the Hotel and Resthouses Corporation, has been active in stimulating tourism in other areas in the Kingdom, Mr. Ajlouni pointed out.

Since its inception, TID has been modernising existing tourist facilities and building new attrac-

tions like the tourist villages at Dibbin, Ajloun, Zay and the resthouses at the Dead Sea, Karak, Ma'an, Petra, Azraq and Jerash. TID is also taking direct charge of the Amra, Aqaba and Petra hotels in an effort to promote their services.

Mr. Ajlouni noted that through its operations TID has created nearly 1,000 jobs, most of which have been filled by Jordanians.

TID has enlarged and modernised the Dead Sea Resthouse boosting its capacity and enabling it to serve 3,000 visitors at one time. Basic services like swimming pools, restaurants and playgrounds were installed, Mr. Ajlouni commented that the Dead Sea Resthouse is a breathing place for many Jordanians, during the winter season. He said that nearly one million people have already visited this resthouse.

Mr. Ajlouni described the Dibbin Resthouse near Ajloun, noting that it has pools, chalets, children's playgrounds, restaurants, and other essential services for vacationers, all grouped in what is now known as a tourist village.

TID has also developed Al Azraq Resthouse and is studying the possibility of using mineral water for therapeutical purposes, and has modernised tourist services and facilities at Petra.

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More at stake for Israel

THE NEWS from Bucharest is that Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu has failed to convince Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir, currently on a visit there, of the usefulness of holding an international peace conference on the Middle East as a framework for Arab-Israeli negotiations. The Israeli premier's long-proclaimed stand comes as no surprise to us here, nor should it in fact surprise Mr. Ceausescu who also must have anticipated the rejection. The Israeli leader, who described his talks with Mr. Ceausescu as pleasant and friendly, moved to call for the return of all Jews in the world to Israel, surely an idea more appealing to him than any international conference or progress on the peace front.

Having thrown cold water on all supporters of the proposed conference, including his own coalition partners in the government, the bulk of the European Community and non-aligned states, not to mention the Soviet Union and the United States, it is becoming easier and easier for Shamir and company in the Likud bloc to continually change the subject. This, of course, is no small achievement for the Israeli rejectionists, thanks to their intransigence and the indifference of the world community. The international indifference is manifested mainly in the United States not having the heart to pressure Israel in any way possible, and in the European Community's refusal to take any step further than their own declarations and intentions on the idea of the international parity.

Now, the Shamirs in Israel can roam the world telling Jews everywhere they have saved them from another "holocaust" called the international conference and then urge them to emigrate to Israel to make it stronger and less vulnerable to such suicidal thoughts. From this, we can only conclude that this camp must believe that making progress towards peace in the area is much more dangerous than integrating all the occupied territories into the land of "greater Israel." If this type of logic is allowed to flourish in the "never never" land of Israeli intransigence, then may God help us all.

It seems we are more in need of psychiatrists than Middle East experts to break the Arab-Israeli deadlock. For people like Shamir do not seem to follow the course of logic, or at least, the logic that the rest of the world understands. However, whether or not Shamir finally succeeds in wiping out the conference's idea from the Middle East dictionary, reality suggests that at the end of the day, Shamir, and everybody else for that matter, would have to face up to the tragedy of perpetual war and strife in the region.

We hope for everybody's sake that the way things in the area are going is not going to be Shamir's way. Israel should understand that it cannot continue to hide from peace behind a hail of bullets or a wall of rejectionism. It has more at stake than any other country in the region to reach a peaceful settlement with the Arab side. But if the Israelis insist on their rejectionism and obduracy, they will have only themselves to blame when the opportunity for peace is lost for ever and ever.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Fruitless Romanian effort

ON the eve of his visit to Romania, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir declared that he was sticking to his position with regard to the proposed international Middle East peace conference. Shamir said he continues to reject the idea of the conference through which the Arabs seek to establish peace. In other words, Shamir proves that he is still scoffing at the international community's will and its resolutions. He is telling the world openly that he does not want to recognise the rights of the Palestinian people and that he wants to maintain Israel's occupation of Arab land. Reports from Bucharest said that Shamir's talks with the Romanian president dwelt on the current impasse in the efforts to arrive at peace in the Middle East. Romania by now has no doubt realised that Shamir was responsible for the deadlock, and his rejection of the conference idea means placing obstacles in the path of peace. Romania, like other world nations, must have realised by now that Shamir wants to impose hegemony on the Arab region and to expand in Arab lands. We do not believe that Romania can and will achieve anything from its current attempts to influence Shamir and make him change his position whatever efforts it might exert in this respect. Romania should realise that Shamir cannot be forced to back down from his intransigent position and is a person with whom no fruitful dialogue can be launched because he is intent on following a course of terrorism, destruction and war.

Al Dustour: Israel playing with Soviets

WHILE Yitzhak Shamir was visiting Romania for talks with its leaders about the Middle East his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was leading news about alleged secret meeting held between Israeli and Soviet diplomats in West Germany. These two Israeli leaders are each trying to make moves on the diplomatic scene designed primarily to win support from the Israeli electorate in the coming general elections. The two leaders are no doubt pursuing efforts that can serve their individual interests. While Shamir is trying to advocate the cause of the Soviet Jewish community's emigration to Israel through Romania, Peres is trying to show his electorate that it is only through his party's efforts that anything of this kind can be achieved. The Soviets are obviously trying to show more flexibility and trying also to remove some of the obstacles before an international Middle East peace conference, but the Israelis are trying to exploit the situation and flexibility on Moscow's part. They are trying to show Moscow as retreating from its traditional policy with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict. At the same time, the Israelis are adhering to their own intransigent position and not showing any flexibility in their position towards the proposed conference. These Israeli moves can only be described as manoeuvres and attempts to distort Moscow's position and to show that the Soviets have now sold out the Arabs in return for their presence at the international conference.

Sawt Al Shaab: Industrial effort paying off

JORDAN's participation in the Damascus International Fair reflects the fact that Jordan's national products have reached a high standard and are now competing with other countries' products in quantity and quality. Jordan's products at the fair include engineering, electrical and pharmaceutical items in addition to furniture and materials and components used in industry and the paper industry. The fact that these products have reached an advanced position is largely due to the opportune climate created in the Kingdom which encouraged production. The government has offered local industry sufficient protection, exemption from taxes, and other lucrative incentives enabling Jordanian factories to go ahead with plans to improve the quality of their products. Products from 175 Jordanian institutions being displayed now in Damascus reflect also the vast economic development in the country and also manifests Syria's interest in promoting its trade with Jordan. Through wise moves on the part of the Jordanian government the Kingdom's economy has been revived and is making successes in Arab markets.

Kuwaiti economy returning to normal

The economic disasters of the early 1980s are being slowly overcome in Kuwait despite the periodic crises of the Gulf war. Tony Walker analyses the state's progress.

KUWAIT — Amid deep anxiety about the Gulf war and political troubles at home, Kuwait is taking tentative steps to stimulate its economy, only now emerging from a deep recession following a 1982 stock market crash.

But caution remains the watchword for Kuwaiti officials. They wish to avoid a repetition of past mistakes, when the oil boom fuelled an atmosphere of unrestrained speculation in shares and real estate, contributing to an almost inevitable bust.

The 1987-88 budget, published at the end of June, provides for a relatively modest 3.4 per cent increase in spending over the previous year, the bulk of it accounted for by increases in wages and salaries.

Similarly, the central bank is exercising strict control over monetary growth which reached a staggering 81.4 per cent in 1981 before falling to minus 18 per cent at the height of the recession in 1984.

"Things are getting back to normal," said Imad Moosa, an economist with the Kuwait International Investment Company. "Kuwait's economy is now behaving like a normal free market economy, although it is still a developing country."

Attitudes in the banks, investment houses, trading companies and in the government itself remain wary, however.

The nervousness of Kuwaiti investors is reflected in the

periodic bouts of capital flight that greet moments of crisis linked with the Iran-Iraq war. The central bank has sought to restrain capital outflow by adjusting the value of the Kuwaiti dinar against the dollar.

Government efforts to restore confidence to the economy after the Souk Al Manakh stock market crash, which left local banks with debts of \$15 billion, much of it unsecured, appear to be making progress.

The stock market has recovered somewhat: the average price of shares rose 41 per cent in 1986 following a 55 per cent drop the year before. According to an index published by Al Shall Economic Consultants, shares appreciated a further 30 per cent in the first three months of this year.

"Everything here depends on the health of the stock market," said Moosa. "If it's in good shape so is the economy."

He attributed the recovery in the value of stock to decisions taken earlier this year to lower interest rates, the splitting of shares into smaller par values to encourage broader ownership and permission granted to companies to acquire 10 per cent of their own shares.

Government purchases of stock are also contributing to the recovery. It reportedly now owns more than 50 per cent of shares in Kuwait's 44 publicly listed companies.

A settlement programme announced in August 1986 to deal with the mountain of debt left over from Souk Al Manakh crash has contributed to a revival of confidence in the banking sector.

Under the scheme, debtors with a positive net worth are required to meet their obligations or risk foreclosure. If, however, the debtor has a negative net worth, the banks are to divide liabilities into two parts, covered by a low interest loan equal to the amount of assets and an interest-free promissory note for the rest.

At the end of 10 years the loans would be paid up and the notes written off, the banks having made necessary provisions. Meanwhile, the central bank would have compensated the individual banks for the reduced income resulting from participation in the programme.

This ingenious scheme has generally been welcomed in Kuwaiti business circles as a reasonable solution to a tangled web of indebtedness that had contributed to a virtual paralysis in the local economy.

A problem for the banks and for the government itself is that a number of big creditors, some of whom are close to the ruling family, are under-declaring assets abroad and are therefore benefiting disproportionately from the central bank sponsored "bailout."

This is causing resentment in banking circles and among some Kuwaiti professionals.

"Why should I reschedule on zero interest when these guys have huge undeclared assets

abroad, including private jets, private fleets of Mercedes and investment companies," said one foreign banker. "They borrowed millions on the basis of high net worth and now they come to us because they want to have a free ride."

Kuwait's 1987-88 budget projects a 4.2 per cent increase in oil revenues to KD1.76 billion, (\$252 billion) with a budget deficit of KD1.38 billion. To help finance the deficit, the government is also planning to issue debt to local investors. This would be the first time any Gulf state had tapped the market in this way.

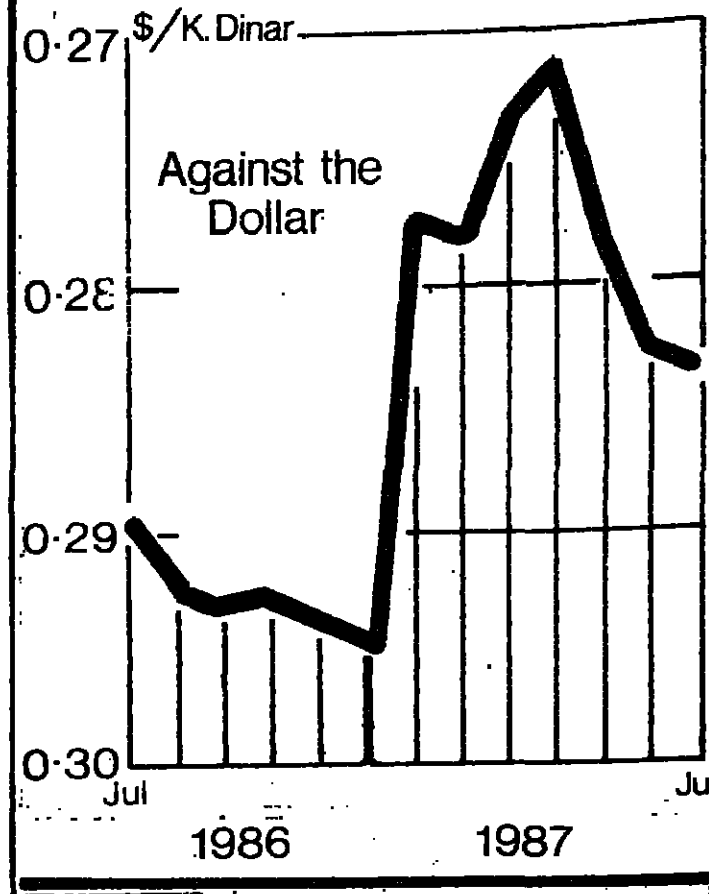
Local economists are critical of continued deficit budgeting. Jassim Saadoun of the Al Shall Economic Consultants believes that even if oil prices rebounded to about \$30 a barrel Kuwait will still need to engage in some belt tightening by the 1990s if it is not to eat further into foreign exchange reserves.

Kuwait's reserves, totalling about \$90 billion, are held in two funds: — The state general reserve stands at about \$35 billion. It can be drawn on for budget expenditure.

The fund for future generations, which cannot be touched until 2001, stands at \$55 billion. There is a mandatory transfer of 10 per cent of budget revenues into it.

Because of the government's handling of the Souk Al Manakh crash and its aftermath, including its pump priming measures to revive the stock and real estate

Kuwaiti Dinar



markets, the state general reserve has been drawn on at a rate of between \$2.8 billion and \$3 billion a year since 1984.

"This level of spending cannot go on forever," said Saadoun.

"We'll have to cut the budget, but the problem is that Kuwaitis have got used to a standard of living and are unprepared to make sacrifices" — Financial Times feature.

RCAR endorses proposal to set up new ministries

(Continued from page 1)

Minister Zaid Rifai. In his opening speech, Mr. Rifai urged the participants to improve performance and respond positively to the government's drive for administrative reform.

Deliberations during the conference centred on concepts of administrative reform and Jordan's experience in this regard and the role of a new data information system in supporting decision making.

An opinion poll conducted by the Jordan Institute for Administrative Development (JIAD) during the conference indicated that the majority of participants agree on the need for setting up a central agency for administrative development and reform.

Suggestions made by participants regarding means to achieve reform on a national level included proposals to adopt a well-defined national strategy and to evaluate civil service regulations as well as the country's laws and public expenditures.

They also included calls for a national strategy for manpower training and development including pre-training for all civil service posts and to link training and job promotion.

The poll indicated that participants saw the need for a prime structural organisation as a prime concern, followed by definition of job prerogatives, streamlined public expenditure and increased inter-departmental meetings.

They agreed that more should be done by heads of departments to protect national property, simplify red tape procedures and organise files for monitoring employee efficiency.

On top management officials' role in administrative reform, the poll showed that conferees favoured preparing special criteria for filling high-level posts, defining ways to evaluate job performance.

At the outset of the meeting on Wednesday, Mr. Izzeddine presented to the conference a working paper in which he outlined steps taken by the RCAR in studying impediments to administrative reform in Jordan and other relevant suggestions.

In his paper, Mr. Izzeddine said the RCAR had finalised a study on a new civil service system which, when endorsed, is expected to give more momentum to the process of administrative development itself.

Mr. Izzeddine said that the new system was characterised by the following features: First, it is a national comprehensive system defining the relationship between the state and the civil servant in any government department.

Second, the new system stresses the concept of administrative development through legislation which would result in the creation of units for training and modernising government and public administration function. The laws would enable government departments to develop while their staff continue to raise their standard and efficiency.

Third, the system would transform acquired experience by any of the government departments into practical methods for handling various problems impeding civil service work. This will be done also through special legislation which will give precise description for each job.

These legislations will divide government employees into four categories, or groups, the first

being those with leading positions, the second grouping employees with specialised jobs, the third being a group of employees involved in administrative and clerical jobs and the fourth group will embody those undertaking complementary jobs.

The working paper proposed a set of regulations to improve the status of any government employee, like allowing male and female employees to have leave to work abroad or to attend a course and to continue his or her higher education.

A married woman, according to the new system, will be allowed a long leave to give proper care for children or to attend her sick husband etc.

The system, the paper said, also offers incentives such as extra allowances for competence or new qualifications, and allows employees the right to fair competition in seeking higher posts.

The new system, the paper noted, has an important feature; minimising routine and bureaucratic work and simplifying procedures for any business and this is designed to give a better and more speedy service to the public.

The paper also noted that the new system empowers a minister to authorise a representative in any province on matters that require prompt action.

The paper noted that the new system creates what will come to be known as the Civil Service Board (CSB) which will be chaired by the deputy prime minister and will have one of the concerned ministers in each case as member, in addition to the president of the CSC and a team of senior government employees in administrative fields.

According to the paper, the CSB will be charged with laying down a general policy for public administrative development and revising civil service systems for introducing amendments to them and also endorsing programmes and plans for training employees. The CSB will also be authorised to offer recommendations on matters connected with salaries and allowances for the civil servants and also in matters related to recruiting, training and absorbing manpower to work inside the Kingdom and abroad.

The CSC, the paper said, will be known by a new name: The Civil Service (Diwan) Bureau as of Jan. 1, 1988, after the approval of the new civil service system.

The paper also noted that the RCAR was revising legislations governing the state's financial affairs, which, among other things, cover travel and transport allowances, purchases etc. Amendments in this domain, the paper said, are designed to contribute to a better handling of public funds and also simplifying financial procedures.

Mr. Izzeddine's working paper referred to the work of the ministries of education and health which he said should be considered as part of the overhauling of public administration in the Kingdom.

The paper referred in particular to the ongoing process of reforming the educational system and to the upcoming national conference on education. The conference, the paper said, will tackle education in its various stages from the compulsory level to the university level because of the importance of education and its impact on the social and economic life of the country.

The Ministry of Health is now

involved in creating what is to be called the Medical Treatment Corporation which will be charged with matters related to offering medical treatment to people on the national level. This corporation, the paper said, will also be in charge of training students of medicine and paramedics in cooperation with community colleges and universities.

The Health Ministry will thus be left with handling the primary health care, preventive medicine and general health, the paper added.

The paper also referred to the Institute of Public Administration (IPA), which, it said, was shouldering a part of the administrative development process, offering training to employees of various departments. The Civil Service Commission, the paper said, will contribute to the system by developing manpower employed in various government offices and by selecting qualified people to handle various jobs in these departments.

Solarz holds talks in Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

Under the first resolution, the world body would go forward with a second resolution that calls for an embargo on arms sales to either party which rejects the ceasefire call.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley, in response to questions on Tuesday about Iraqi air attacks against Iran, once again called for an end to the Iran-Iraq war, pointing out that "it is the purpose of American policy to bring that war to an end as quickly as possible."

"We want the entire war to end. Let's make that very clear," the deputy spokeswoman emphasised. "And let's also remember that the U.N. resolution calls for a comprehensive ceasefire across the board."

"The Iraqis responded quickly and positively to the resolution. They have indicated every willingness to abide by it in a ceasefire."

U.S. force escorts convoy to Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

Regional shipping sources said an Iranian patrol boat fired on the Osco Sierra near the entrance of the Gulf, but caused no casualties.

Iran also said that its warships warned off French-made jets and U.S. aircraft "harassing" its minesweeping units in the Gulf of Oman off the UAE coast.

The French aircraft carrier Clemenceau, sent to the Gulf region, carries 40 warplanes.

Iran previously complained that two French destroyers were dogging the minesweeping operations along with British and American warships.

The United States and Kuwait blame Iran for laying mines in the region but Tehran says the United States or its regional allies were responsible.

The Iranian navy, operating in international waters, has said it has found and destroyed several mines off the UAE coast.

When the Guadalcanal moved south to pick up the incoming convoy later Tuesday, shipping sources said it probably was scouting an exit route for the convoy now forming in Kuwait.

Attention was further focussed on Kuwait on Tuesday when the emirate said it had found and

detonated a mine near the tankers' anchorage.

The convoy entered the Gulf a few hours after a Soviet missile frigate, the Ladny, escorted a Soviet cargo ship, the 13,541-tonne Petr Yemstov, out of the waterway.

Iran denied a report by Tehran on Tuesday that Iranian coastal artillery sank four Iraqi gunboats off the Fao Peninsula in the northern Gulf.

The Iranian News Agency IRNA had reported that the boats were attacked on Tuesday and all their crewmen were killed. It also said an Iraqi military vessel was sinking off the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr south of Basra after being set ablaze by Iranian artillery.

In other developments, Iran said its artillery shelled Iraqi border towns Wednesday in retaliation for alleged Iraqi air raids on civilians, and its jets bombed a power station and other targets.

A communiqué carried by IRNA said the shelling was directed at Basra, Zobeir, Abu Khasib and the port of Umm Qasr, all in southernmost Iraq.

The artillery barrage damaged "important" installations and killed or wounded a number of Iraqis, the agency added in a dispatch monitored in Nicotia.

Glass optimistic over all hostages

(Continued from page 1)

Jan. 20 while trying to negotiate with the group holding Mr. Anderson and Thomas Sutherland, the two Americans held the longest.

In Paris, a Syrian businessman involved in talks to free hostages in Lebanon said Damascus had engineered the release of Mr. Glass from his kidnappers and that other hostages would be freed soon.

Omran Adham, a personal friend of President Hafez Al Assad, was an intermediary last year in hostage negotiations between Damascus and Paris.

He told the daily Le Matin that Mr. Glass was set free and "clearly did not escape" from his captors.

Mr. Glass' kidnappers, according to Mr. Adham, had heeded Syrian "advice." He said his release was arranged following an agreement last week in Beirut between Lebanese groups including the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God) and Syrian military officials.

Mr. Glass told reporters he wriggled out of chains and handcuffs and locked his sleeping guards in a flat, but acknowledged on his return to London that "anything is possible."

"The fact that Charles Glass walked out of an area of the southern suburbs of Beirut where the Syrian army is not deployed proves the large influence of Syria on Lebanon," said Mr. Adham.

The businessman, who travels frequently between Paris and the Middle East, predicted that other Western hostages would be freed in coming days.

"I have recently been telling American envoys that it would start with the liberation of Glass and that other Western hostages would follow. What has happened proves that I'm not just talking, and the near future will justify the rest of my statements," Mr. Adham said.

The United States on Tuesday blamed Iran for the kidnapping of Mr. Glass and said it might have ordered his release.

"We are confident that Iran

ordered his kidnapping," an administration official familiar with the Glass case told reporters.

"It is safe to assume that Iran was involved in ordering or effecting his release, assuming he didn't escape," said the official who refused to be identified further.

He said a team of U.S. officials had flown to London to talk to Glass.

The team, headed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Newlin, might never find out whether Mr. Glass escaped or was allowed to get away, the official said.

"We may never know, and Charles Glass may never know the truth about his escape. There may be no 'yes' or 'no' answer."

The official said Washington believed all remaining eight American hostages in Lebanon, some of them held more than two years, were in Beirut in the hands of the Hizbollah group.

He said Syria had pressed Iran harder on the hostage issue since Vernon Walters, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, visited Damascus in July to talk about alleged Syrian backing for "international terrorism."

Over the last three weeks, bloody demonstrations in the Holy City of Mecca that Saudi Arabia blamed on Iran and mining outside the Gulf had further distanced Tehran from countries in the region, the official said.

"The only country in the Arab World with reasonable relations with Iran is Syria and Syria was putting pressure on Iran in Lebanon."

"If you are sitting in Tehran, you see the increasing isolation, you see the pressure, and you conclude the way to relieve the pressure and keep a window open to the Arab World is to order (the kidnappers) to let Glass go," he said.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley thanked Syria for its help.

"We are delighted that this U.S. citizen unlawfully held hostage for more than two months is now free," she said.

Hess killed himself, allies say

(Continued from page 1)

But they said the four World War II allies — France, Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union — were still coordinating their actions as they have done since Hess was jailed with six other prisoners here after allied war crimes trials in 1947.

For the past 21 years, Hess had been the sole prisoner in Spandau jail, spending his time walking in the garden and reading books.

Eugene K. Bird, once the top-ranking American officer guarding Spandau prison, said Tuesday that Hess had tried to commit suicide on four other occasions.

The first came shortly after Hess was captured following his 1941 flight to Scotland in a self-proclaimed bid to end World War II, Bird said.

The other three occurred during Hess' nearly 41-year confinement, the last in February 1977.

"As was standing practice, the warden left Hess alone in the small garden house but remained nearby in the garden," the U.S. State Department said in Washington. "Approximately five minutes later he returned to

check on Hess and then immediately called in medical assistance."

Purdon, the British spokesman, emphasised that a civilian employed by the United States and not an American soldier had immediate responsibility for keeping track of Hess at that time.

The mayor of Wunsiedel, where Hess will be buried at the request of his family, said that the earliest the funeral could take place would be on Saturday.

He said Hess' son had told him the allies would probably hand over the body on Thursday. Allied sources have said the body, being held in the British military hospital where he died, would be flown to West Germany by military aircraft and handed over to the family for burial.

British soldiers maintained an armed guard on the hospital on Wednesday but there were no incidents.

At the red-brick Spandau prison, due for demolition in coming weeks, a small group of right-wing radicals laid flowers in a tribute to Hess Tuesday night despite catcalls from left-wing opponents.

Preservation of Islamic monuments in Jordan

By Ghazi Bisheh

This article is reprinted from a special issue of Arts and the Islamic World

ISLAMIC monuments in Jordan are remarkably numerous and varied. They are scattered over a large geographical region and span more than a thousand years, extending from the Umayyad period, through the Ayyubid-Mamluke time, to the end of Ottoman rule. Many of these monuments have undergone varying degrees of consolidation and restoration work; others were simply fenced round and permanent guards were appointed for the sake of safeguarding and protection. A proper consideration of the subject proposed by the title should obviously include all the Islamic buildings in Jordan which in one way or another underwent some restoration.

However, there is a practical problem in dealing with considerable and immensely varied monuments (mosques, baths, forts, palaces etc.) in a short essay like this. Therefore, it is perhaps more profitable to limit ourselves to three examples of recent restoration works which serve to identify the positive and negative aspects of such activities. The three examples were chosen not only because of my greater familiarity with the monuments, but also because they are historically and geographically related to each other, and best illustrate the problems which the Department of Antiquities of Jordan faces in carrying out its restoration pro-

jects. The three monuments chosen for this short essay are two bath-houses — Qasr Amra and Hammam Al Sarah — and a little mosque built in the immediate vicinity of Qasr Al Hallabat. They were all built during the first half of the eighth century in the north and northeastern steppe of Jordan.

Qasr Amra: This little bathhouse, which stands on the edge of Wadi Al Balam (Wadi of the tamarisk trees) is situated about 85 kilometres to the east of Amman and 25 kilometres to the southwest of the oasis of Azraq. It is built of roughly shaped, hard limestone blocks, except for the jambs, the monolithic lintel, and the relieving arch above the doorway, which are built of basalt. The plan consists of three main elements:

i. A rectangular audience-hall roofed with three tunnel-vaults resting on the side walls and two central transverse arches.

ii. The bath complex, which consists of three rooms respectively roofed with a tunnel-vault, a cross-vault and a dome.

iii. The hydraulic structures, which include a cased masonry well, an elevated water-tank and a saqiya (the apparatus for drawing water from the well into the water-tank.).

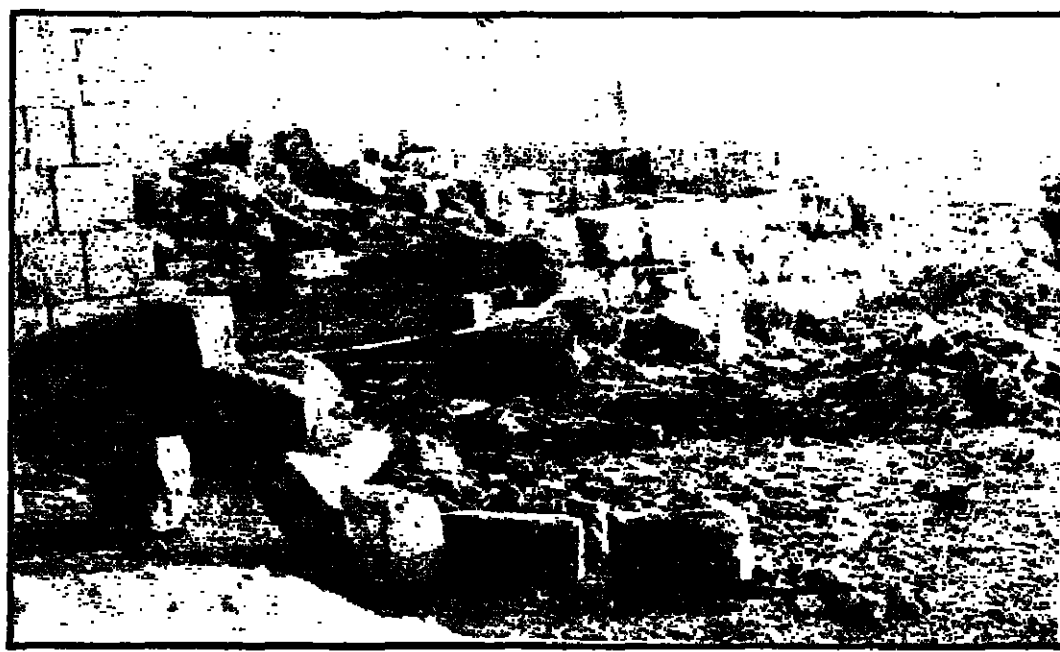
The building is now in an excellent state of preservation with extensive fresco paintings which cover virtually all the interior surfaces. It was discovered by the Austrian, Alois Musil, in 1898. Soon afterwards, Musil made two additional trips to the monument, the third in the company of a

painter, Melich, who copied the paintings, which copies were published by the Academy of Vienna.

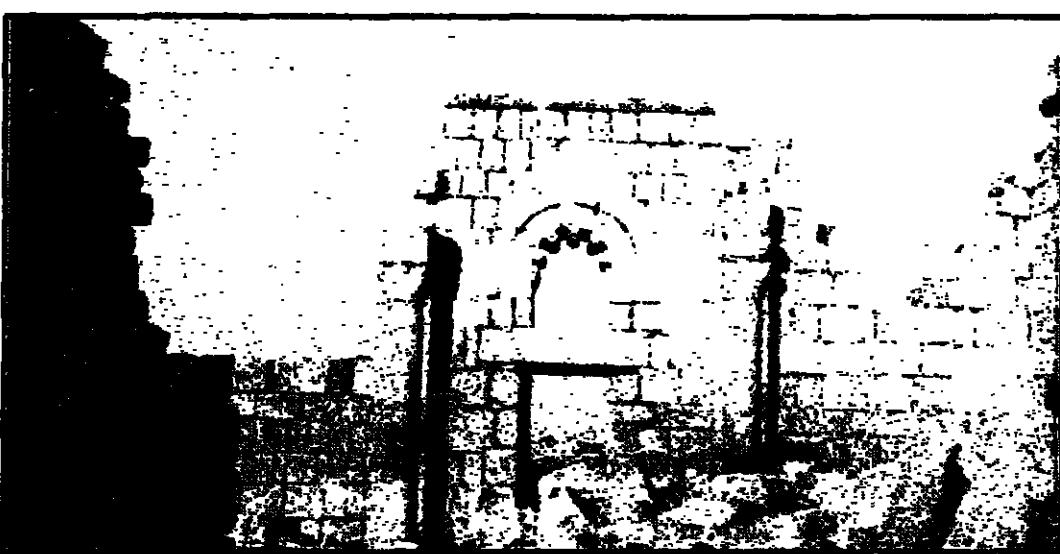
Since Musil's rediscovery, the paintings became smoke blackened by the campfires of Bedouins, who pitched their tents near the monument in the spring. Additional damage was caused by visitors and passers-by who scratched their names on the painted surfaces. Perceiving the precarious and deteriorating condition of the paintings, the Department of Antiquities of Jordan commissioned a Spanish team from the National Museum of Madrid to clean the fresco paintings and to consolidate the building, especially the fractured western vault of the audience-hall. This task was accomplished during three seasons of work in the years 1971, 1972 and 1973.

The clearance work was accompanied by a survey of the vicinity of the building, by limited soundings to elucidate certain points of detail, and by consolidation of the fractured western wall by grouting and inserting stainless metal ties and dowels. The result of these works was documented with detailed plans, elevations and photographs, as the proper procedure required, and published in a neatly produced book. The main task of the Spanish team, however, was the cleaning of the fresco paintings on account of their aesthetic and historical value. This task was carried out scrupulously without tampering with the original appearance of the paintings through brightening up of the colours or filling in missing parts. Only gaps and a few sections of fallen plaster were filled in with patches of yellowish rendering to prevent additional plaster from flaking off. Thanks to these restorations, the building and its fresco paintings are now in a fairly good state of preservation.

However, in the last two years a major highway was built across the desert between Muwaqqar and Azraq, passing by Qasr Amra at a distance of some 250 metres to the south. This highway made the monument more easily accessible, but, on the other hand, it affected the environmental and natural setting which is a major factor in the building's attraction. It now remains to be seen, through a long-term monitoring, to what degree the vibrations and exhaust fumes of heavy lorries will affect the building and its paintings. Another hazard to which Qasr Amra used to be subjected was the flashfloods caused by the sporadic rains which fall in heavy cloudbursts. This danger was alleviated by



The mosque of Qasr Al Hallabat, south wall and Mihrab before reconstruction (above), and after restoration (below)



The mosque of Qasr Al Hallabat, interior of western wall

raising the level of the adjacent wadi bank and building earthen barrages to the south and southwest of the monument.

Hammam Al Sarah: This monument is situated about 55 kilometres to the northeast of Amman and about 45 kilometres to the northwest of Qasr Amra. Its plan is strikingly similar to Qasr Amra, though its masonry is better finished and its courses are more tightly joined. Hammam Al Sarah was visited by H.C. Butler, director of the Princeton University Archaeological Expedition to Syria, in 1905 and 1909. The building remained in a fairly good state of preservation until the beginning of the fifth decade of this century.

Since then, however, the bath has been subjected to a systematic pilfering for its stones, which left only the rubble cores of exposed walls standing. In the first half of 1974, the Department of Antiquities carried out clearance and partial restoration works. The latter work was done in an artisanal manner without proper technical supervision and contrasts markedly with the admirable work carried out at Qasr Amra. Under such circumstances, it was inevitable that some mistakes would be made which would alter the original appearance of the building. For instance the caldarium of the bath complex was roofed by a spherical dome resting on triangular pendentives.

The dome has long since collapsed, but originally it was built with nineteen projecting ribs composed of long, thin, wedged pieces of shale; the filling between the ribs was of shale, too. The dome was pierced by small circular windows, some of which had already become large holes when Creswell visited the building in 1926. The roof, as reconstructed, shows a low, conical cupola which differs sharply from the original one. Furthermore, the arched opening above the furnace's passageway at its northern end appears in some early photographs as being slightly pointed. In the reconstruction, the arch has acquired a semi-circular shape with a stepped facade above it.

The Mosque of Qasr Al Hallabat: This monument is situated about 2 kilometres to the west of Hammam Al Sarah. The Hammam, the Mosque, and the reconstruction of Qasr Al Hallabat with elaborate decorations in mosaics, carved stucco and fresco painting, were apparently all part of the same architectural programme.

The mosque, which measures 11.77 x 10.70 metres internally, is built of finely dressed limestone blocks on its inner and outer faces with a filling of limestone rubble and mortar. The interior is di-

vided into three aisles by two arcades of three arches each. The arches rest on two columns and two attached piers. Of the columns, only their square plinths and bases remain. The aisles were roofed by tunnel-vaults running parallel to the qibla wall and resting on the north and south walls and the two intermediate arcades. Access to the mosque was given by means of three entrances. The lateral entrance in the centre of the west wall with its relieving cusped arch is still preserved. The mosque was surrounded on all sides except the south by porticoes consisting of arches resting on columns and L-shaped piers at the corners.

In the early 1950s, the building was subjected to a systematic pilfering which destroyed most of the eastern half, including the Mihrab. In the autumn of 1984, the excavation of the mosque was completed and partial restoration was carried out. This included the reconstruction of the lower courses of the south wall, together with the Mihrab, the flight of three stairs which led up to the eastern portico and the consolidation of the eastern portico wall. Since quite a large num-

ber of the original stones are still available on the site, additional restoration is planned for the autumn of 1987.

Any restoration project depends for its success on the existence of adequate supervision, skilled technical workmen, and proper logistic and documentary preparation. However, in a small country like Jordan, with a vast number of archaeological monuments to be preserved, such a combination is not always possible. This is mainly due to the lack of qualified personnel and skilled technical workmen, who are constantly being lured away and attracted by better salaries in the private sector. The shortage of skilled workmen is a serious problem which must be overcome before the Department of Antiquities can begin to make significant progress in its programme of restoration of ancient monuments. A first step has already been taken to solve this problem by setting up a training programme for young personnel with in-field instruction. Many of these young trainees have already acquired reasonable experience and are now employed in the Jerash restoration project.

Randa Habib's Corner

A question of alternatives

THE recent decision that the Ministry of Higher Education is not "committed" to issue university degree equivalence to students who do not have the required tawjihi degrees is the hot subject of all gatherings in Amman these days. Most people are criticising the decision saying that it interferes with their children's right to choose their future career.

After hearing the clarifications given by Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad at the Monday Press Circle and considering the statistics of unemployment among doctors and engineers, I understand the motives of the step taken by the Ministry of Higher Education.

However, I think that such a decision should have been preceded by a realistic awareness campaign by the ministry; if you want to convince people to stop being doctors and engineers, you also have to show them the alternatives.

Let us face it. Our problem is basically social. We have too many doctors and engineers because more than half of the population considers it "great" to be a doctor or an engineer. But if the ministry works out a public awareness campaign on the available alternatives — "new jobs" — explaining what a specialisation in computer sciences or other technical fields could mean a lot of people will stop dreaming of being doctors or engineers.

Had the decision of the Ministry of Higher Education come after such a campaign it may not have raised such a general outcry. In fact, maybe it wouldn't even have been necessary to take such a decision as the problem might have solved itself.

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- (3) - Cost of the first copy of tender documents is JD 500. No refunds will be made. Cost of the second copy of documents is JD 200.
- (4) - Last date for purchase of documents is Sept. 10, 1987.
- (5) - Pre-tender meeting shall be held at the Ministry of Public Works on Sunday, Sept. 6, 1987.
- (6) - Tenders shall be submitted before 12:30 noon of Saturday, Sept. 19, 1987 at the Government Tenders Directorate in Amman.

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Director, Government Tenders Directorate

Jordan Times
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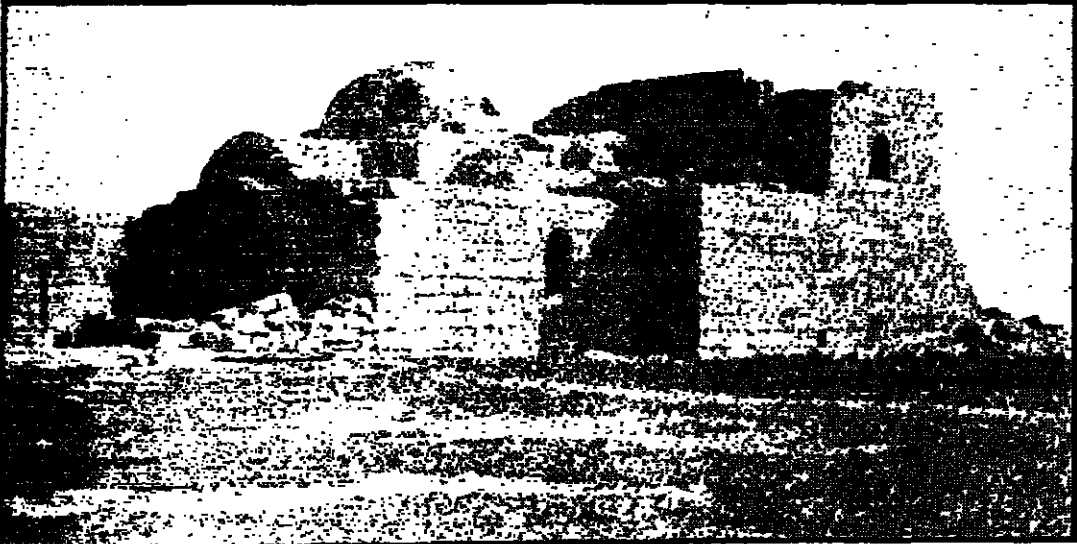
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Qasr Amra — athletes practising



Hammam Al Sarah before its systematic pilfering



Hammam Al Sarah after its pilfering



Hammam Al Sarah as reconstructed in 1974, looking south

Asian handball championships begin today

By Rania Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The fourth male and first female Asian handball championships kick off today under royal patronage with 11 countries fielding teams for the events.

The championships, which will be held at the indoor gymnasium of the Sports Palace, will be the biggest tournament in terms of the number of entries, according to Asian Handball Federation (AHF) Secretary General Syad Abul Hassan.

The countries participating in the championship include China, Japan, South Korea, Syria, Taiwan, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Palestine, Nepal and Bahrain. The latter five countries are fielding only male teams to take part in the events, which will last until Aug. 30.

Nine organising, technical and administrative committees have been formed to supervise preparations for the games.

A three-day seminar for international-level referees has also taken place in preparation for the championship. The seminar held

on Monday, included lectures and illustrations on the technical aspects and rules of the game.

A large number of Jordanian youth have volunteered their services in receiving the foreign teams participating in the championships.

Activities for the first day will include a men's match between Jordan and Nepal and a ladies' match between South Korea and Japan. The opening ceremony before the matches will include a show of Jordanian folk dances and music.

The AHF is expected to hold a

special meeting to assess this year's event as well as prepare for the next championship, slated for 1989. Mr. Abul Hassan told the Jordan Times.

Members of the Jordanian ladies team interviewed by the Jordan Times expressed enthusiasm over the event. "This is the first international challenge of its kind for most of the team's members," said 21-year-old Basma Ghazzawi, who has been playing the sport for five years. "We have been training for this championship since September 1986."

In preparation for the event, the ladies team has attended two camps this year in Syria and Iraq. "The games we played there were important for us since they improved our performance and skills," said Maysar Awameh. "In general, training for this championship has been intense."

added Ahlam Haddad, who has been playing for the national team since 1980. "It is a very good experience for us because it represents a chance for us to play against tough teams and to gain some playing experience."

The Ministry of Youth has contributed toward financing the championship through some of its funds "allocated" to the Jordanian Handball Federation, said Dr. Ibrahim, head of the Jordanian team and a member of the higher organising committee.

Kuwait has also supported the games through the efforts of Sheikh Fahed Al Ahmad, president of the AHF and a member of the International Olympic Committee. Mr. Abul Hassan said. Sheikh Fahed Al Ahmad arrived in Amman Wednesday for the championship.

Brazil eliminates Mexico in Pan Am soccer semifinal marred by fistfight

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Brazil beat Mexico 1-0 in extra time in the Pan American Games soccer semifinal on Tuesday night in a wild match that saw two players sent off, nine cautioned, after a half-time brawl and the referee left off the field by police.

Seconds after U.S. referee Angelo Bratsis turned down a penalty appeal by Mexico with just two minutes to go in the second half of extra time, an assistant trainer came off the bench to trip Brazilian defender Nelsinho as he ran down the wing with the ball.

It was not immediately known who the trainer was and whether

he would face sanctions from the sport's governing body.

A scene of confusion ensued as police and games security staff came onto the field as Bratsis was surrounded by angry Mexican players.

After about five minutes, Bratsis left the field with his two linesmen and five minutes later the stadium announcer said the game was over and Brazil had won.

The public area behind the sports and soccer centre stand was sealed off by police and security officials and the estimated 10,000 fans were told to leave by one end only.

FIFA officials declined to comment on the incident and said only that the referee had ended the game. Brazil now advances to Friday's final against Chile, who upset favoured Argentina 3-2 earlier in the day.

The match between Brazil and Mexico was ugly from the start and there was no score after a foul-ridden first half. As the players left the field at the interval, Mexican captain Fernando Quirarte kicked the ball at the Brazilian bench and as the players went through the narrow passageway leading to the dressing rooms, a furious fistfight erupted.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Italian climber plans to ski down Everest

BOLZANO, Italy (R) — An Italian climber who specialises in fast mountain ascents hopes to make a new name for himself — by skiing down Mount Everest. Reinhard Patscheider, 30, told a news conference on Tuesday he planned to climb Everest solo and without oxygen before making the fastest possible descent using a pair of extra-long 1.3-metre (four feet seven inch) skis. Patscheider has scaled Nepal's Mount Annapurna with Italian-born Reinhold Messner and holds the record for the fastest ascent of the North of the Eiger, in Switzerland.

Tennis player declared ineligible

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A Brazilian tennis player was declared ineligible to participate in the Pan American Games because of "his extensive prize-money winnings," tennis officials said. The membership of Nelson Aerts in the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) also was cited by the games' tennis eligibility committee as evidence of his professional status. The amateur status of Aerts and Fernando Roesse, also a member of the Brazilian team, was challenged by the Costa Rican tennis delegation. Roesse is not a member of the ATP and there was not sufficient other evidence to declare him ineligible, the committee said on Tuesday.

Moorhouse betters own record

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — Briton Adrian Moorhouse set a European 100 metres breaststroke record in 1 minute 02.13 seconds Tuesday to win the European title ahead of Soviet Dimitri Volkov. In the women's 100 metres freestyle, East German world champion Kristin Otto fought back from behind to win ahead of compatriot Manuela Stellmach and Romanian Tamara Costache. British veteran Moorhouse improved his European record by .15 seconds to maintain his European title. He was trailing Volkov at midway but overcame the challenge in the home straight. Volkov finished .30 seconds behind the winner. Italian Gianni Minervini took bronze in 1:02.66 seconds.

Minter upsets Sukova in 2nd round of player's tennis

TORONTO (R) — Unheralded Australian Anne Minter stunned defending champion Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 6-3, 6-1 in the second round of the \$250,000 Player's Challenge Women's Tennis tournament on Tuesday night.

Minter, ranked 50th in the world, hit passing shots at will against the fourth seed and reeled off seven straight games from midway in the first set.

The match was fairly even until the seventh game of the first set. Minter passed Sukova down the middle, lobbed over her head, beat her to the right side and then the left to break the powerful

serve-and-volleyer's serve at love.

"She kept attacking, but my groundstrokes were just so accurate," said Minter. "When she hit her forehand I found that I had a lot of time to set up. I also was seeing the ball really early."

Sukova, ranked sixth in the world, gave Minter her due. "She didn't miss a shot and I wasn't doing my best, so I gave her the opportunity to do well," she said. Third-seeded Pam Shriver had no trouble advancing from her second-round match, dispatching fellow-American Ely Hakami 6-3, 6-3.

THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler

ACROSS

- 1 Bulk
- 5 Bring upon oneself
- 10 Deepot
- 14 River in the Ligurian Sea
- 16 Snares
- 18 — Domini
- 17 Teleran coin
- 18 Cooks with fat
- 19 Grandmas
- 20 Chatter
- 21 Chief
- 22 Oiler
- 24 Welterly
- 26 Popular song of yore
- 27 Birdhouse
- 28 Cleverness
- 32 Painting style
- 33 Religious belief
- 34 Collection of sayings
- 35 Poker term
- 36 Stashes
- 37 Thailand once
- 38 Exclamation of disgust
- 39 Jury group
- 40 Stuffed in cooker
- 41 Polish
- 42 Cylindrical
- 43 Coast
- 44 Key
- 45 March
- 46 Formerly
- 47 — acid
- 48 "How I — me"
- 49 "How I — me"
- 50 Laugh loudly
- 51 No more than
- 52 Aba's father
- 53 Fr. Revolution
- 54 leader
- 55 Vasco da —
- 56 Sage
- 57 Tink. decree
- 58 Open to bribery
- 59 Not so much
- 60 Provide food
- 61 Covered

DOWN

- 1 Bloody
- 2 Solo
- 3 Traitor
- 4 Sun
- 5 Elegance
- 6 Water wheel
- 7 Mint
- 8 Consue
- 9 Fidelity
- 10 — acid
- 11 Medusa
- 12 — Boleyn
- 13 Laugh loudly
- 14 No more than
- 15 Aba's father
- 16 Challenge
- 17 Shadow
- 18 Open —
- 19 Tink. decree
- 20 Open to bribery
- 21 Martinique
- 22 Stave angry
- 23 Cupid
- 24 Legatine
- 25 Fiber plant
- 26 Lindy or rug
- 27 Wide spread
- 28 Hindu dress
- 29 Remunerated
- 30 Hat material
- 31 Hat material
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. BULK 2. SOLO 3. TRAITOR 4. SUN 5. ELEGANCE 6. WATER WHEEL 7. MINT 8. CONSUE 9. FIDELITY 10. — ACID 11. MEDUSA 12. — BOLEYN 13. LAUGH LOUDLY 14. NO MORE THAN 15. ABA'S FATHER 16. CHALLENGE 17. SHADOW 18. OPEN — 19. TINK. DECREE 20. OPEN TO BRIBERY 21. MARTINIQUE 22. STAVE ANGRY 23. CUPID 24. LEGATINE 25. FIBER PLANT 26. LINDY OR RUG 27. WIDE SPREAD 28. HINDU DRESS 29. REMUNERATED 30. HAT MATERIAL 31. HAT MATERIAL 32. HAT MATERIAL 33. HAT MATERIAL 34. HAT MATERIAL 35. HAT MATERIAL 36. HAT MATERIAL 37. HAT MATERIAL 38. HAT MATERIAL 39. HAT MATERIAL 40. HAT MATERIAL 41. HAT MATERIAL 42. HAT MATERIAL 43. HAT MATERIAL 44. HAT MATERIAL 45. HAT MATERIAL 46. HAT MATERIAL 47. HAT MATERIAL 48. HAT MATERIAL 49. HAT MATERIAL 50. HAT MATERIAL 51. HAT MATERIAL 52. HAT MATERIAL 53. HAT MATERIAL 54. HAT MATERIAL 55. HAT MATERIAL 56. HAT MATERIAL 57. HAT MATERIAL 58. HAT MATERIAL 59. HAT MATERIAL 60. HAT MATERIAL 61. HAT MATERIAL

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The Young Muslim Women's Association

wishes to congratulate its students of the Centre for Special Education. Raeda Melhem for winning the gold medal Amer Khawash for winning the silver medal Emad Fasha for winning the bronze medal for Jordan in the Special Olympics for the Mentally Handicapped held in Indiana, USA. The YWMA also wishes to present thanks and appreciation for Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, president of the YWMA board of trustees, the board and the staff of the centre for their continued efforts in making this possible.

FIRST RACE 4.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES

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2. Mohammad Faith Oudih	Izzeldin	Owner	El Daham	53
3. Dary Basheer El Sbael	A. El Zawahir	Owner		54.5
4. Awwad Mahmoud Mohammad	M. Tarik	Owner		53
5. Abdullah Mohammad	M. Ramy	Owner	Ahmad	53
6. Salir Fahed El Lawansh	Qhanism	Owner	Fawaz	50
7. Ziad Abboud Nafie	Anead	Owner		50
8. Salir Ghazy A. Jabir	M. Nafja	Owner	Kasim	48.5
9. Khalif Sultan	B. El Soyah	Owner		48.5
10. Salman Hisham Nabulsi	M. Salman	Owner	Mahmoud	48.5
11. A. El Hafiz Awwad	El Hamidieh	Owner	Sulman	48.5
12. Ata Mazin El Abbady	Rihanah	Owner	Rasheed	48.5
13. Dr. A. El Naem A. Wandy	N. Maen	Owner	A. Amarah	48.5

SECOND RACE 4.30 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. A. El Kareem A. El Sheikh	M.A.EI Haleem	Owner	Ahmad	54.5
2. Mamdouh El Haded	Khattat	Owner	Yusef	53
3. Taid Sarhan Hwady	Fahoud	Owner	Delfallah	53
4. H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Sarim	Owner	Fawaz	50
5. H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	El Anoud	Owner	Kasim	48.5
6. H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Walaah	Owner	Rasheed	48.5
7. Ghalib Haddadin	El Dahab	Owner	George	50
8. Nimir El Hmoud	El Hasna	Owner	Mahmoud	48.5
9. Nimir El Hmoud	Sahef	Owner	Mahmoud	48.5

THIRD RACE 5.00 FOR SECOND CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Mohammad Maesh Mitak	I. Kala	Owner	Mahmoud	57.5
2. Mohammad Maesh Mitak	S.A. El Salam	Owner	Fawaz	52.5
3. Mohammad A. El Jalil	El Saleh	Owner		57
4. Mashhour F. Jnaib	N. El Salt	Owner	Sulman	57
5. Abdullah El Jamary	J. Daly	Owner	Ahmad	57
6. Mohammad A. El Naby	Makadeer	Owner	George	57
7. Dr. A. El Hafez A. Wandy	Z. Maen	Owner	Mwafak	57
8. Mohammad Khalil Marley	S. Hachim	Owner	Yousef	57
9. Mohammad Khalil Marley	D. Omar	Owner		57
10. Basil Yousef	Ghaneb	Owner		56
11. Shibly Awwad El Faiez	El Saklaweh	Owner	Mousa	53.5

FOURTH RACE 5.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Faisal Awwad El Faiez	El Hanout	Owner	Mousa	58.5
2. Jamil Mohammad El Zabin	El Hamdany	Owner		58
3. Yousef Rahtal	W. El Silih	Owner		56
4. Michel El Faiez	Nimrah	Owner	A. Jabir	55
5. Samy Haddadin	Salek	Owner	George	55
6. Fawaz Anwar El Shalan	El Mdalah	Owner	Mousin	51.5
7. Nimir El Hmoud	El Ghoul	Owner	Mahmoud	50
8. Ghalib Haddadin	El Zaeem	Owner	George	50

FIFTH RACE 6.00 FOR SECOND AND THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Nimir El Hmoud	Sahir	Mahmoud		62
2. Nimir El Hmoud	Rum	Mahmoud	A. Jacheef	48.5
3. Nimir El Hmoud	Atlas	Mahmoud		52
4. Ziad Samy Madros	Minkareem	Adnan		52
5. Faisal Awwad El Faiez	Shihanih	Owner	Mousa	66.5
6. Michel El Faiez	A. El Taieb	Nmuh	A. Jabir	58
7. Michel El Faiez	M. El Ayal	Nmuh		58
8. Mohammad Yousef	Kahirahom	Owner		48.5

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6080/90	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3310/20	Canadian dollar
	1.8458/65	West German marks
	2.0795/0805	Dutch guilders
	1.5280/90	Swiss francs
	38.33/36	Belgian francs
	6.1680/1710	French francs
	1336/1337	Italian lira
	145.70/80	Japanese yen
	6.4425/75	Swedish crowns
	6.7425/75	Norwegian crowns
	7.0975/1025	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	455.50/456.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were still depressed, but above the lows seen around midday as Wall Street's steadier opening dispelled the market's worst fears. Dealers said trading remained thin and extremely nervous ahead of important U.K. economic data on Thursday.

There was little retail interest, with most of Wednesday's decline reflecting a general mark-down by market-makers.

Some issues with a large ADR profile posted substantial falls on Tuesday's Wall Street decline. Glaxo falling 27p to 1.740. But Jaguar held unchanged at 562 after Tuesday's results. At 1415 GMT the FTSE 100 was 30.6 lower at 2,194.2.

Kenneth Inglis, U.K. equities strategist at Philips and Drew said, "I suspect the FTSE will not fall much further from here."

Two weeks ago, base rates rose by one point to 10 per cent and both U.K. Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson and the Bank of England have expressed concern over the level of borrowing.

There are fears that the consumer boom could be translated into higher imports later in the year and that the economy should have the brake applied. Speculation continues as to whether the recent one-point base rate rise will be enough.

First Yugoslavian firm goes bankrupt under new tough law

BELGRADE (R) — About 1,600 construction workers lost their jobs when communist Yugoslavia Tuesday declared the first casualty of a tough new bankruptcy law aimed at rooting out loss-making firms from the country's beleaguered economy.

The victim, a company called Titograd which is one of the biggest construction firms in the relatively poor Montenegro region, retained 1,000 of its 2,600 workers to finish existing building contracts, the national news agency Tanjug reported.

But they may also be made redundant later, an announcement carried by the agency said.

It said the move had been "on the cards" for years but was something new to Yugoslavia's self-management economic system.

Prime Minister Branko Mikulic, struggling to reduce an annual inflation rate running at 105 per cent and a \$20 billion foreign debt, warned earlier this year that firms which continued to make losses must go bust.

Loss-making Yugoslav firms have traditionally been bailed out by state subsidies, by banks in which they hold shares, or by cash injections from profitable enterprises which have been subjected to liquidity strains themselves as a result.

Mr. Mikulic's bankruptcy law was expected to meet opposition as workers are laid off, and trade unions have insisted that those

made redundant must be provided with compensation.

Tuesday's announcement said the firm was being liquidated as it had been inefficient and badly organised for many years. It did not say if redundancy payments will be paid and officials at the firm could not be reached for comment.

Titograd survived so long only because of cash infusions from local authorities and other enterprises, Tanjug said. It said at least 10 other enterprises in Montenegro were also close to being wound up.

Official sources say some 790 enterprises employing 186,000 workers are strong candidates for liquidation and proceedings have already been started against 17 of them. Some sources say as many as 7,000 firms and 1.6 million workers could go under unless they recover massive losses made already this year.

Trade unions and mass political organisations have asked for the law to be amended to guarantee income for workers who lose their jobs.

In February when the government applied tough wage controls to restrain pay rises, workers responded by staging an unprecedented wave of about 200 strikes around the country.

Political commentators in Belgrade have said the bankruptcy law could prompt renewed worker unrest if applied to many Yugoslav enterprises.

Third World owes less to U.S. banks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The debt that developing countries owe to U.S. commercial banks dropped in the first three months of this year, according to figures from the Federal Reserve system.

Total debt in Asia was down by \$676 million in March from December 1986, in Latin America by \$596 million and in Africa by \$106 million, according to figures from the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council released this month. Debt owed by oil-exporting areas dropped \$910 million.

Developing countries depend heavily on banks for capital to make new investments in farms and factories that they hope will raise the standard of living.

Several countries, however, have suspended payment on principal and even interest: Brazil, Ivory Coast, Ecuador, Bolivia and Sudan, among others. Banks are collecting old debts when they can and are cautious about lending more.

The net amount owed in Latin America, the big problem area, fell from \$67.66 billion to \$67.08 billion.

Mexico's debt to American banks dropped to \$23.34 billion

from \$23.65 billion, but Argentina's rose to \$8.66 billion from \$8.52 billion. There was little change in Brazil's borrowings, which hovered near \$22.4 billion. Chile was down from \$6.46 billion to \$6.36 billion, Colombia from \$2.15 billion to \$2.06 billion and Peru from \$1.34 billion to \$1.29 billion.

Those countries have important additional debts to banks in Britain, Japan, West Germany and other countries, to governments and to such official bodies as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Debt to U.S. banks from Asia, which is generally in better financial shape than Latin America, fell to \$19.15 billion from \$19.83 billion.

One of the biggest reductions was in South Korea, whose debt dropped to \$5.2 billion in March. Taiwan's borrowings rose, to \$3.6 billion from \$2.96 billion. Debt in the Philippines was up slightly, to \$5.12 billion from \$5.11 billion.

Africa, which depends more on government than commercial lending, saw debt to American banks drop from nearly \$3 billion to \$2.9 billion.

Lebanon defers banking regulation to support lira

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's central bank has postponed a plan to support the crumbling Lebanese lira which would have forced banks to raise their deposits with it, Finance Minister Joseph Al Hashem said Wednesday.

Some private banks had hinted they would go on strike if the central bank insisted on its "circular 739," originally due to be implemented earlier this month.

The decree would have raised private bank deposits with the central bank from 13 to 16 per cent of their capital and fined banks which did not comply. Mr. Hashem told reporters it would be postponed for two months while a joint committee studies ways to amend the circular or agree on a new compromise.

He earlier chaired a meeting between central bank governor, Mr. Edmond Naim and officials of the bankers' association, which groups more than 80 private banks.

The bankers' association had strongly opposed the decree, saying it would sharply reduce their working capital and ability to attract new deposits.

The decree aimed to absorb excess Lebanese lira in the banking system and curb banks' ability to speculate in foreign exchange.

Speculation has played a part in the collapse of the lira, which has lost 62 per cent of its dollar value this year, banking sources say.

Meanwhile, about 500 workers at Lebanon's central bank went on strike Wednesday to mark the disappearance of three colleagues, feared kidnapped two years ago.

Commercial banks also stopped work for one hour in sympathy for the missing workers.

China tries to regulate private entrepreneurs

BEIJING (AP) — New regulations have been issued to clamp down on fraud, overpricing, tax evasion and other problems that accompanied the mushrooming of 12 million private businesses nationwide, an official newspaper said Wednesday.

The China Daily said Wednesday the state council, China's cabinet, has issued the first national law covering private business. It will go into effect Sept. 1.

Under the law, rural villagers and unemployed urban residents can start private shops after getting a licence from local authorities.

Licensed entrepreneurs can open bank accounts and obtain bank loans, it said. Self-employed individuals or families can hire one or two helpers or three to five apprentices.

The regulations forbid self-employed people from speculating, swindling, smuggling, illegally driving up prices, deceiving customers about the quality of goods, rigging measuring scales, selling fake or unsanitary goods, selling reactionary or pornographic publications, and evading taxes.

British bank turns in losses after allocation for bad debts

LONDON (R) — Standard Chartered Plc of Britain Tuesday became the latest big bank to set aside a large sum against doubtful debts, a measure that resulted in losses for the first half of 1987 and will mean it has to sell off assets.

Special debt provisions totalling £503.2 million (\$805 million) were "a major setback for this year," senior deputy chairman Sir Peter Graham told reporters.

He also identified operations in the United States, Canada and Malaysia as trouble spots.

The bank reported a pre-tax loss for the first half of 1987 of £24.2 million (\$358.7 million), after a profit of £131 million (\$210 million) in the same period last year.

Sir Graham said Standard Chartered expected to raise some £300 million (\$480 million) from sales of what the bank called "non-core assets" over the next year to shore up its capital base.

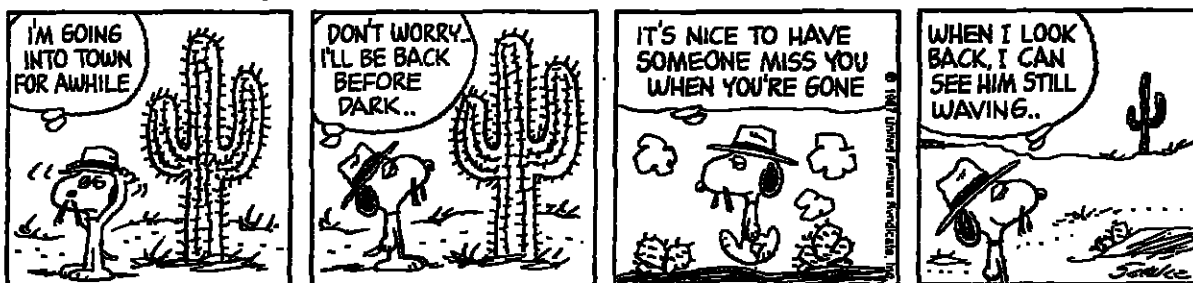
He gave no details but said: "We have an ample supply of family silver."



Prince Abdullah attends Ford's opening

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah attended the reception held by the Commercial and Industrial Co. Ltd. (Ford), at the Intercontinental Hotel in Amman. The company's director general, Zakaria Steitnyeh, delivered a speech in which he welcomed Prince Abdullah and the invited guests and announced that Ford, with all its branches and production, has returned to Arab market after 20 years. Mr. James Van Duzen, Ford's director for Europe, Africa and the Middle East, also welcomed Prince Abdullah and expressed his pleasure for renewing relations with the Commercial and Industrial Co. Ltd. as a sole agent in Jordan.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Dealers change view over dollar

TOKYO (R) — Asian dealers said they see a further battering of the dollar even after Wednesday's heavy selloff on a gloomy outlook for the U.S. trade balances.

"Dollar selling interest is so strong that the unit is poised for a further decline and may fall below 140 yen before long," said Mr. Koichi Miyazaki of Sanwa Bank.

But the American currency is likely to settle first in a range between 144 and 146 yen before heading lower, they said.

Dealers said any abrupt dollar movements would be muted by central bank intervention, but the U.S. currency's underlying weakness would not disappear until there were better prospects for the American economic future.

A pessimistic outlook for an improved U.S. trade balance had knocked down the dollar sharply overseas and continued to drive it lower in Asia Wednesday.

The currency ended in Tokyo at 145.34 yen, its lowest closing level against the Japanese currency in two months. It had been at 148.55 yen Tuesday.

"Traders changed their view of the dollar because they were disappointed over Friday's larger-than-expected U.S. June trade figures," said Hong Kong Standard Chartered Bank chief dealer, Mr. D.C. Goh.

The U.S. trade shortfall widened unexpectedly to \$15.7 billion in June, while the market had anticipated only a \$13 billion gap.

Tokyo dealers said pressure to sell dollars had been mounting even before the release of the U.S. June trade data, but was contained recently when the dollar temporarily rallied on heightened tensions in the Gulf area.

The poor U.S. trade figures provided an opportunity for operators to balance their dollar positions, said Mr. Koji Kidokoro of Mitsui Bank.

He said that although tensions in the Gulf might again encourage buying of dollars, the currency's underlying sentiment would remain bearish.

A senior dealer at Bank of Tokyo's Singapore branch said the market would closely watch announcements of American July consumer prices and revised second quarter gross national product to assess the health of the U.S. economy.

"If those figures, due out on Friday, show sluggish growth for the U.S. economy, the dollar may fall to 142 yen or even 141 yen," he said.

Mr. Miyazaki said if the new U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan did not take as firm an anti-inflationary stance as his predecessor, a dollar collapse might become a real threat.

Asian dealers also said the dollar's near-term outlook would depend on how forcefully central banks moved to prevent the currency's decline.

They said the Bank of Japan apparently bought a small amount of dollars with yen in Tokyo Wednesday.

"The Bank of Japan is expected to continue to smooth the

passage of the dollar downwards," said Wardley Australia's chief foreign-exchange dealer, Mr. Joseph Wai.

Many dealers doubted Japanese central bank intervention alone would be enough. They expect other Western central banks to regulate the dollar's decline through intervention.

"If the dollar falls through 140 yen, U.S. and European central banks are likely to intervene aggressively to support the currency, possibly with concerted action," Mr. Wai said.

Too sharp a drop of the dollar would be undesirable for the United States, even though it would help its trade situation, because it could fan prospects of higher long-term interest rates there, said one Tokyo dealer.

In London, fear of intervention by central banks braked a new slide in the value of the dollar Wednesday, but currency dealers said the sell-off could resume.

The dollar in Europe dipped as low as 145.15 Japanese yen and 1,8370 Deutschmarks before rallying a little as reports of dollar purchases by the Bank of Japan led dealers to fear concerted central bank intervention to steady it.

"That stopped the fall and will be in people's minds today."

A week ago the dollar was buoyant, around 150 marks and comfortably above 150 yen. It had been helped since May by statements by the leading non-communist industrial nations, backed by central bank buying, that its fall by more than 40 per cent against major currencies since 1985 had gone far enough.

Investors around the world sold dollars this week. Selling was brisk in New York Tuesday night. Wednesday, Japanese fund managers, banks and corporations scrambled to unload.

The Bank of Japan bought at least \$2 million, initially failing to brake the slide but having the later effect of instilling caution into European markets when they opened.

The dollar drop has hit the booming stock markets. And, in a catch-22 bind, weakness on Wall Street helped send the dollar on down — by killing demand for the currency to buy U.S. stock.

On Monday, a gleeful Wall Street watched the Dow Jones industrial average celebrate the fifth year of a raging "bull" market by closing above 2,700 for the first time.

Tuesday, the Dow took its seventh biggest dive on record, sliding 45.31 points to end at 2,654.66.

"The weakness of the dollar has to be considered ominous," explained Mr. Michael Metz of Oppenheimer in New York Tuesday night. "It threatens one of the market's major supports, that being foreign demand for U.S. stocks."

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"My auto insurance rates went up! Remember that collision I had with my grocery cart in the cereal aisle...?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

REFIA
KAROC
YERTOP
DULSHO



WOULD YOU BELIEVE A PAINTER WHO DID THIS?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: IT ON

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TESTY VOXEN LIKELY EASILY Answer: What lars do after they die—LIE STILL

S. African miners obey return-to-work ultimatum

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South Africa's mine owners claimed their first victory in the country's biggest wage strike Wednesday when 700 black coal miners bowed to an ultimatum to return to work or lose their jobs.

The Anglo American Mining Conglomerate reported that the men resumed work at Landau Colliery, east of Johannesburg. The strike, involving 300,000 workers at coal and gold mines crucial to the country's economy, was called 10 days ago by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

The ultimatum was the first to reach its deadline since the violence-plagued strike began. Anglo American, which says Landau is no longer profitable and plans to close the pit next year, had threatened to do so Wednesday if the men did not end their strike.

A similar ultimatum was set to expire Wednesday at Vaal Reef, the world's second-biggest gold mine, 160 kilometres south-west of Johannesburg.

Anglo has threatened to sack 2,000 workers if they do not return to Number Six Shaft at Vaal Reef, which employs 50,000 men and is an NUM stronghold.

The ultimatum was originally set to expire Tuesday but Anglo extended it by 24 hours to give the NUM time to hold talks with strikers.

An NUM spokesman said the union was anxious to save jobs and would probably encourage a return to work at Number Six Shaft, as it had at Landau.

who earn about three times as much as blacks. The mine owners have offered rises of up to 23.4 per cent.

In an unrelated dispute, about 200 black workers returned to their jobs at the Mathey Rustenburg Platinum Refinery near Johannesburg.

They had been on strike for two days to protest against plans to move the refinery to the black homeland of Bophuthatswana, which does not recognise South African trade unions.

South Africa provides more than 80 per cent of the Western World's platinum and the Rustenburg dispute has sent shivers through international metal markets.

In a separate incident, residents of Soweto, Johannesburg's main black township, said police fired tear gas Tuesday at hundreds of black municipal employees marching on the city council office.

Residents told reporters that police ordered the council employees, who were marching to demand redress of several grievances, to disperse within five minutes. Before the time limit expired, police charged with whips, kicked fleeing employees and fired tear gas, the residents said.

Reporters who arrived later saw tear gas canisters and people with bruises and torn clothes. Residents said several people were injured and one person was reported shot.

Police headquarters said it had no immediate comment on the incident.

4-year-old survivor of Detroit air crash improving

DETROIT (R) — The four-year-old girl who was the sole survivor of a jet crash that killed at least 155 people has improved and looks likely to recover from her injuries, doctors said.

"She's going to make it. She's a super little girl and she's making excellent progress," an emotional Anthony Cichan said of the report on his granddaughter Cecilia Cichan.

The child was being treated for burns over a third of her body at the University of Michigan Medical Center.

Cecilia was found on Sunday night crumpled in the arms of her dead mother in the wreckage of Northwest Airlines Flight 255. The plane slammed into a highway shortly after takeoff from Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Her six-year-old brother and father were also killed in the crash of the jet, which was bound for Phoenix. The family was returning home to Tempe, Arizona, after visiting the children's grandparents in Pennsylvania.

Northwest Airlines said Cecilia was the sole survivor of the 155 people aboard the jet.

John Lauber, the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board member who is heading the crash investigation, said local police were only able to confirm one death on the ground, an occupant of a car hit by the aircraft.

Local reports have said up to five people on the ground may have died.

Cichan said he recognised his granddaughter, who is swathed in bandages, because of her chipped tooth and lavender polish her grandmother had put on the girl's fingernails.

He said the child "was found in her mother's arms. Her mother shielded her, and that's what saved her."

Lauber said the pilot of the jet might have taken off at a noticeably steep angle just before the plane stalled and crashed. But he said the significance of the takeoff angle and whether it contributed to the crash remained to be determined.

He told a news conference Tuesday that two days of extensive investigations had produced few clues yet to what caused the disaster.

Investigators said Tuesday that preliminary studies showed engine troubles did not appear to have been behind the tragedy.

"There is nothing that draws our attention in any one direction... there are so many unknowns," Lauber said.

He said the pilot of another airliner waiting to take off told investigators the Northwest plane took off at a steep rotation angle — the angle at which it becomes airborne.

He also said the pilot did not report seeing any flames from the aircraft during its takeoff run, although some witnesses said they saw flames.

Evidence shows soldiers shot Aquino from behind

MANILA (R) — Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino was clubbed on the head and shot from behind by a soldier, new evidence at his murder trial suggested Wednesday.

Previously unpublished autopsy photographs were submitted two days before the fourth anniversary of the murder of President Corason Aquino's husband. They contradicted the conclusions of a former trial that said "Ninoy" Aquino was probably killed by a Communist gunman.

Government prosecutor Raul Gonzales said photographs taken during the autopsy of the former senator showed that the bullet that hit him had a "straight downward path, indicating Aquino was shot by someone from a higher level than he was."

Only air force security troops, loyal to then-president Ferdinand Marcos, were above and behind Sen. Aquino at the time.

Mr. Gonzales said the autopsy also suggested Sen. Aquino was "hit (on the head) by a blunt instrument while he was still alive."

Sen. Benigno Aquino, Marcos's bitter political foe, was shot at Manila airport on Aug. 21, 1983, as he returned from three years of self-imposed exile in the United States.

He was escorted by soldiers as he descended the stairway from the plane but the military said a Communist gunman sneaked through a tight security cordon and shot the former senator on the tarmac.

That theory was supported by evidence presented at the original trial held under Marcos's rule, and the court accepted that version. The assassination, however, launched a wave of public protest that eventually toppled the 20-year rule of the ageing strongman.

The current retrial, now in its fourth month, was called by the Aquino government following the acquittal by Marcos's court of 25 military men and a civilian in December, 1985.

Thirty-five soldiers and four civilians, including two former cabinet ministers, are now standing trial.

The defence barred the witness from showing slides of the autopsy on a wide screen, saying this would "incite feelings of sympathy for Aquino."

The photographs were taken by Alexander Loinaz, the son of a member of Corason Aquino's cabinet. He said he had never previously volunteered to give evidence because he feared for his life.

Mr. Gonzales said Loinaz's photographs of a probe into Sen. Aquino's head were the first evidence to support prosecution claims that the bullet travelled on a straight downward path.

Swiss banks to reveal Marcos accounts

Swiss banks will disclose the secret bank records of former President Ferdinand Marcos next month without Manila having to file formal criminal charges against him, a Swiss lawyer retained by the Philippines government said Wednesday.

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COLUMNS 7 & 8

China to punish those who take tips

PEKING (R) — Chinese hotel staff, tour guides and other tourism workers caught accepting tips are to be punished, the national radio news has said. The radio quoted tourism authorities as saying tipping was strictly forbidden and offenders could be sacked or prosecuted. Communist China frowns on tipping as demeaning and ideologically wrong but tour operators from abroad say some workers have begun to demand tips from overseas visitors. The People's Daily last month published a commentary article suggesting tipping as a way to raise standards of service in the travel trade.

Expert dismisses asteroid warning

HEIDELBERG (R) — A Soviet warning that the earth could be destroyed by an asteroid in the year 2115 was dismissed as fantasy by a West German astrophysicist. Lutz Schimadel, of Heidelberg Astronomical Institute, said the asteroid, called 1983 TV, had been observed only once and that was not enough to calculate that it was on a collision course with Earth. Schimadel was responding to queries about an article on Saturday in the Soviet newspaper Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya in which scientist Alexander Voytskevich suggested that the only way to avert a disaster might be to set up an all-world space service for the defence of the Earth, to blow the asteroid up. Schimadel said 1983 TV was spotted once, on Oct. 7 in the year of its name, as a faint object on a photographic plate at the Oak Ridge Observatory in the United States. At least three observations would be required for a preliminary assessment of its course, he said. About 20,000 similar asteroids had already been charted and none was heading for the planet.

Israeli army places tall order

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli army said it was ordering longer beds after finding that the average soldier had grown three centimetres taller in the past decade. A military official said the army was also considering a leaner diet. A survey showed that recruits were fatter than 10 years ago.

Joan Collins wants quick divorce

LOS ANGELES (R) — Television's Dynasty actress Joan Collins wants an immediate divorce from Swedish businessman Peter Holm so she can stop supporting him, her lawyer has said. Holm, 40, a former rock singer, is seeking temporary support of \$80,000 a month from 54-year-old Collins so he can continue to live in a manner he has said includes \$2,000 leather jackets and \$400-a-pair shoes. Collins' lawyer, Marvin Mitchelson, said in court that Holm is entitled only to 20 per cent of Collins' earnings during their marriage, according to a pre-nuptial agreement declared valid in a court hearing last month. That support ends once the marriage is cancelled, Mitchelson said. The British actress sued Holm, her fourth husband, for a divorce last December, 13 months after they married, citing irreconcilable differences and alleged fraud.

Land of hot winters, cold summers found

PEKING (R) — There is a mysterious area of north-east China where winter is warmer than summer, where peasants grow celery while the rest of the region is ice-bound, the New China News Agency has said. Temperatures in the 16 square kilometre bit of Liaoning province average 17 degrees centigrade (63 F.) in winter but minus 12 degrees C. (10 F.) in summer when surrounding areas are warm, it said. Local people grow vegetables in winter and in summer dig pits that they use as refrigerators, the agency added. The agency said scientists were baffled.

Sikhs kill 9 in Punjab

NEW DELHI (AP) — Suspected Sikh extremists in northern Punjab state killed nine people, including six Sikh villagers celebrating a wedding, the United News of India (UNI) reported Wednesday.

UNI, quoting state police, said at least 10 attackers armed with semi-automatic weapons drove up in a truck and opened fire late Tuesday at the wedding celebration in Mustapur, about 65 kilometres south east of Amritsar. Five people also were wounded, UNI said.

Sikh extremists, who follow a strict code, forbid the sale and consumption of liquor and oppose lavish celebrations.

Also on Tuesday, Sikh gunmen ambushed a group of police in southern Patiala district, killing a Sikh assistant inspector and wounding a constable.

On Wednesday, suspected Sikh extremists set off a bomb in Phagwara town, killing a Hindu man and his 18-month-old son. Police said another son and the man's wife, who was making breakfast, were wounded in the attack about 100 kilometres south of Amritsar.

With the latest killings, the death toll this year in Punjab rose to at least 675 in terrorist-related violence. Most of the victims have been Hindus or moderate Sikhs.

On July 6-7, Sikh extremists massacred 72 Hindu bus passengers in Punjab and neighbouring Haryana state, triggering protest strikes across northern India.

Meanwhile in southern India, Communist revolutionaries ambushed a group of police in Andhra Pradesh and killed 10 officers, the United News of India reported Wednesday.

UNI, quoting police, said four officers also were wounded in the attack Tuesday in Khanapur jungle in Adilabad district, about 1,000 kilometres south of New Delhi.

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Moscow, Peking conclude border talks

PEKING (AP) — China and the Soviet Union have concluded 10 days of talks on defining their long-contested 7,500-kilometre common border, Soviet officials said Wednesday.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the second round of border talks had gone well and both sides wanted the discussions to continue.

They declined to give any other details, but said there would be no surprises when the two sides issue a joint statement Friday.

China's Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian, at a banquet Monday for the head of the Soviet delegation, Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, said China puts great importance to the border talks.

"A just and reasonable settlement of the Sino-Soviet boundary question is of great significance for both countries," the official Xinhua News Agency quoted him as saying.

The officials said Mr. Rogachev is on a trip to the coastal resort city of Qingdao. He will return to the Soviet Union on Friday.

All troops were on a maximum alert by Tuesday, a Venezuelan general said. Witnesses said leave was cancelled and troops confined to barracks.

A Venezuelan newspaper said heavy artillery, tanks and fighter-bombers were moved near the border.

Friendly governments and the Organisation of American States (OAS) appealed for an end to the tension and a peaceful resolution of the dispute, Mr. Lusinch said.

Last Thursday, Venezuela protested at the presence of the

Colombian corvette Caldas in what it said were its waters in the Gulf of Venezuela. It put the military high command on alert.

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Jayewardene vows to implement peace pact

COLOMBO (Agencies) — President Junius Jayewardene said Wednesday the attempt on his life would not deter him from implementing an accord with India to end Sri Lanka's Tamil rebellion.

Senior military officers blamed Marxist Sinhalese for the gun and grenade attack on Tuesday which killed a member of parliament and wounded five cabinet ministers and the prime minister.

"We intend to carry on our work, irrespective of the evil forces that are ganguing up against us," Mr. Jayewardene said.

Mr. Jayewardene, 81 next month, was unhurt after an

attacker fired a shot and flung two grenades into a cabinet meeting room in parliament.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulthumudali, who led the war against the guerrillas, was wounded by a grenade. He was in a stable condition after surgeons removed his spleen.

Sri Lankan and Indian officials began talks on Wednesday on implementing the July 29 accord to end the Tamils' four-year campaign for an independent homeland in north and east Sri Lanka.

A previously unknown group calling itself the Patriotic People's Movement claimed responsibility for Tuesday's assault.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

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By Emory Cain

Edited by Herb Eitzen

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